Daily Report

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Pact Meeting Discusses 'Radical Transformation'

LD1909203890 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 2000 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] At a meeting in Sofia of government commissioners from the Warsaw Pact, a concept was accepted on a Hungarian, Polish, and Czechoslovak proposal which could lead to a radical transformation of the organization. The task of the consultation was to prepare the extraordinary session of the Political Consultative Committee in Budapest, planned for November. In the Hungarian opinion, with the proposal submitted jointly with the Poles and the Czechoslovaks, the Warsaw Pact could be integrated into the new organization of all-European cooperation.

East European Reform Ministers Meet in Snagov

AU1709202590 Bucharest Domestic Service in Romanian 1900 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Text] A meeting of Eastern European ministers in charge of reform began in Snagov today, with the participation of delegations from Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Poland, Hungary, the USSR, and Romania. The delegations consist of ministers, secretaries of state, experts, and representatives of the prime ministers of these countries in charge of reform.

In his opening speech, Mr. Adrian Severin, minister and assistant to the prime minister for reform and relations with Parliament, said that this meeting should facilitate a useful exchange of views, as all these countries are faced with the problems of reform, which has both economic and social aspects.

The meeting proceedings will conclude on 19 September.

Severin Welcomes Participants

AU1809133690 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1211 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 18/9/1990—The meeting of the ministers for reform in East European countries has started in Snagov, near Bucharest, on Tuesday morning. That meeting arranged by the Romanian Government is attended by representatives from Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Poland, Hungary, the Soviet Union and Romania.

Representatives of the West European economic community and members of Western countries diplomatic corps accredited to Bucharest also expressed their interest to participate in that meeting.

In the name of the government Mr. Adrian Severin, minister, prime minister's assistant for reform and relationship with the parliament, welcomed the participants and expressed his hope that the exchange of information and opinions to take place would contribute to the better understanding of the economic reforms in the countries present at that meeting.

Without a pre-set protocol, the participants agreed to approach aspects characteristic of the reforms in their countries.

Roman Praises Ministers' Meeting

AU1809202990 Bucharest Domestic Service in Romanian 1900 GMT 18 Sep 90

["Exclusive" interview with Prime Minister Petre Roman by unidentified reporter on meeting of East European ministers in charge of reform, in Snagov on 18 September—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Mr. Prime Minister, what can you tell us after these short separate meetings with the members of the delegations that participated in the Snagov meeting on reform related issues?

[Petre Roman] Well, I met with all delegation chiefs. You get a good feeling when you find out that all of them consider this meeting useful, to say the least, if not quite essential, as the majority of them said. There was talk about this meeting becoming a permanent fixture—of course, not always in Snagov, but in other countries, too.

[Reporter] There were some concrete proposals made in this respect....

[Roman] Indeed. It is obvious that all these countries are confronted with similar problems. I would like to take up an older idea of mine, which dates back to last January, namely, that we sort of complement each other, whether we like it or not. This relationship—be it good or bad—exists. Therefore, we should take into account the fact that there is a market [word indistinct], which should not be neglected and whose disintegration can only be to the detriment of our countries.

Consequently, one can talk about two important common aspects: the preservation of this market, which already exists and which we should make use of, and the promotion of contacts and open discussions and exchanges of views on reform matters. Hence, this meeting is quite important.

[Reporter] Well, your meetings also summed up today's discussions, so to say. From Romania's viewpoint, at this given time, what is the usefulness of this exchange of views?

[Roman] It is quite simple really. There are a few key points we are very interested in. We would like to know what steps were taken by other countries in the sphere of privatization—that is, the ways and means of privatization, which is a most important thing—and what solutions were tried out for social problems associated with the reform process. Here are two important elements, whose better understanding through the experience of others could be very useful.

[Reporter] Thank you very much.

[Roman] Thank you.

Reform in Countries Described

AU1909083190 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0711 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 19/9/1990—A meeting of reform ministers of East-European countries called upon the initiative of Romanian Prime Minister Petre Roman, proceeds at Snagov, near Bucharest.

Inaugurating the meeting, A. Severin, adviser to the Romanian prime minister for reform and liaison with the Parliament, stressed that the meeting was required by the complexity of the processes taking place in the East-European countries. In spite of the peculiarities of the respective states' economies, all of them live through a period of demolition of the obsolete structures of the centralized management and of assertion of the market relations mechanism. Inevitable economic difficulties are more or less obvious in all these countries, said Adrian Severin.

Stefan Naumov, Bucharest ambassador of Bulgaria, referred in his address to the reforms inaugurated in Bulgaria's agriculture last year. The reform is a priority both for the government and for the opposition, the Bulgarian ambassador said.

Stressing the importance of the meeting, Josef Kreuter, deputy federal minister of strategic planning of the Czech and Slovak Federative Republic, pointed out that the reforms underway in his country were hampered by the extremely adverse conditions that affect all countries in Eastern Europe. He showed that the purpose of the reform was to radically change the structures of the planned economy.

Answering a question posed by the Soviet delegation, the speaker stressed that his country was small and it therefore intended to keep the single economy, showing that the national level prevailed as concerned the competence of the republics' governments.

I want to tell you that my country has been involved in the international economic competition for some thirty years now, the situation of the process of reforms differing from that of the countries present in this meeting, said Branimir Pajkovic, member of Yugoslavia's Government. He mentioned that since March last year his government set itself to pursue especially three priorities: the establishment of an internal market of goods, services and capital, the internationalization of the economy, the consolidation of the state's role in the defense of the citizens' human rights. An important part of the Yugoslav representative's address explained ways by which his country managed to have last year's spiralling inflation, unemployment, social costs generally, recede.

The head of the Hungarian delegation to the Snagov meeting, Laszlo Bogar, secretary of state at the Ministry of International Economic Relations, said inter alia: When the Stalinist-type economic, political and social system changes the aim of the reform is to radically alter three elements: instead of isolation economic integration, instead of avoidance of the market economy mechanism the putting in place of conditions for a market economy, instead of political dictatorship a multiparty democracy. A huge foreign debt, a high inflation rate, a growing unemployment and economic recession are the main characteristics of the current economic process in Hungary. A model of market economy is being achieved in Hungary at present. The political parties represented to the government expressed their consensus over the so-called social market economy. As for privatization, Hungary tries to change the property system so as to be officially controllable. The next 15-20 years will depend on the way in which privatization is to be carried out.

Roman Hosts Dinner for Ministers

AU1809194090 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1831 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Excerpt] Bucharest ROMPRES, 18/9/1990—[Passage omitted] Petre Roman, prime minister of Romania, met with the participants in the meeting of reform ministers of East-European countries, at Snagov, on September 18. The Romanian prime minister talked at length with every delegation, especially about aspects of the structural changes in the East-European countries.

The prime minister offered a dinner for the meeting participants.

Ministers Discuss Reform

AU1909102690 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0953 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 19/9/1990—The proceedings of the meeting of East-European countries' ministers for reform were resumed in Snagov on Wednesday afternoon. Participants from Bulgaria, the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, Hungary, Poland, the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia and Romania continue debating issues of the reforms applied in those countries.

In the Polish delegation's address, Wieslaw Szymczak, economic counselor of Poland's Embassy in Bucharest, referred to the privatization modalities stipulated by the Polish Government and emphasized both positive results and shortfalls in the Polish society. In this context he showed that according to certain statistical data there are about 800,000 unemployed and it is estimated to reach ten per cent of the total effective work force. The speaker showed that the Polish experience can represent a lesson for everybody, taking into consideration the fact that any programme can be improved.

National Assembly Elects Lukanov Prime Minister

AU1909221090 Sofia BTA in English 2152 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Sofia, 20 Sep (BTA)—The Grand National Assembly elected Mr. Andrey Lukanov chairman of the Council of Ministers by a secret ballot today.

Of the 366 M.P.'s present and voting, 234 voted for and 104 voted against the nomination. This happened shortly past midnight, at the end of a nine-hour sitting of parliament.

Lukanov Proposes New Cabinet

AU1909201890 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1935 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Summary by unidentified reporter on first part of evening sitting of 34th session of the Grand National Assembly in Sofia on 19 September—live]

[Text] Dear listeners, for those of you who have missed part of the speech by Andrey Lukanov, I will remind you of his personnel proposals for the draft composition of the future Council of Ministers.

Three persons are proposed as deputy chairmen of the Council of Ministers: Georgi Pirinski, Belcho Belchev, and Nora Ananieva.

The persons proposed for election as ministers are as follows:

as minister of finance, Belcho Belchev;

as minister of industries and technology, Krustyu Stanilov;

as minister of economics and planning, Ivan Tenev;

as minister of foreign economic relations, Atanas Paparizov;

as minister of domestic trade and services, Valeri (Tsekov);

as minister of culture, Dimo Dimov;

as minister of science and higher education, Iliya (Konev);

as minister of construction and territorial organization, Ivan Krustev;

as minister of transport and communications, with the proviso that the proposal for the formation of such a ministry is adopted, Atanas Popov;

as minister of agriculture and food industry, Todor Pandov;

as minister of environment, Aleksandur Aleksandrov;

as minister of foreign affairs, Lyuben Gotsev;

as minister of national defense, Colonel General Yordan Mutafchiev;

as minister of internal affairs, Pencho Penev;

as minister of (?employment) and social welfare, a new ministry proposed by Andrey Lukanov, Emiliya [name indistinct];

and as minister of national health, Ivan Chernozemski.

Additional consultations will be held on the candidate for the post of minister of justice.

At the moment, the people's deputies are having a recess to allow preparations to be made for a secret vote on the candidature of Andrey Lukanov for the post of chairman of the Council of Ministers, and the proposals for personnel changes will also be voted for by secret ballot.

Further on One-Party Cabinet

AU1909220490 Sofia BTA in English 2129 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Sofia, 19 Sep (BTA)—Mr. Andrey Lukanov, who was assigned by the president of the Republic to form a government on August 30, said today that he was forced to name a cabinet composed of members of the Bulgarian Socialist Party, excluding representatives of the Union of Democratic Forces and of the other political forces represented in parliament.

For a second time after the November 10, 1989, ouster of Todor Zhivkov, Mr. Andrey Lukanov forms a one-party government of the Bulgarian Socialist (formerly Communist) Party.

Mr. Lukanov described the consultations on the formation of a cabinet as unsatisfactory. "We failed to form a government of national concord and trust," he said. In his view the country needs precisely such a government.

The last chance, which presented itself when President Dr. Zhelev proposed a "programme government," was missed, too. Still, areas of agreement have emerged, and they can serve as a basis of the parliamentary support which the government needs.

The united democratic opposition refused to take part in Mr. Lukanov's government, citing the Socialists' reluctance to accept the radical ideas of rapid change contained in the programme of the Union of Democratic Forces and the still intact totalitarian structures throughout the country.

Mr. Lukanov said the cabinet he will name will not act as a partisan one but will rather be guided by the national interests and will seek to express a national consensus.

In terms of its structure, the suggested cabinet does not differ essentially from the previous one, whose term of office actually expired three months ago.

Mr. Lukanov said that office staff will be cut and ministry employees will be relocated on a professional selection basis. He suggested the establishment of a new Ministry of Employment and Social Welfare and the closure of the government committees. He further suggested a closing down of the Committee for State and People's Control and the establishment of a special agency on state property and privatization.

Upon its approval by parliament, the new government will have two weeks to submit a programme on its work

until the end of the year and suggestions for restructuring of ministries and of the budget.

Among the top priorities, Mr. Lukanov listed the drafting of a trade code, practical measures for privatization and demonopolization of state property, the passage of a land act and the creation of conditions for the development of private farming, a tax reform, measures to stimulate the new non-state forms of production, accelerated building of the new structures which will secure the functioning of a market economy, a completion of the banking reform, etc.

Mr. Lukanov named Mr. Lyuben Gotsev, former deputy minister, minister of foreign affairs. The post was hitherto held by Mr. Boyko Dimitrov. Colonel General Yordan Mutafchiev, deputy minister, was named minister of national defence. The previous minister, Army General Dobri Dzhurov, a resistance comrade-in-arms of Todor Zhivkov, held the portfolio since 1962. Most of the new ministers named were deputy ministers of the respective ministries. The independents Prof. Dimo Dimov, a famous musician, named minister of culture, and Prof. Iliya Konev, named minister of science and higher education, would be newcomers to government quarters.

Three senior functionaries of the Socialist Party: Mr. Belcho Belchev (who will be concurrently minister of finance for some time), Mr. Georgi Pirinski and Mrs. Nora Ananieva, were named deputy chairmen of the Council of Ministers.

Mr. Pencho Penev was named minister of internal affairs. Mr. Andrey Lukanov did not name ministers of justice, the economy and industry.

The opposition refuses to join the government because it has no programme, said Mr. Stoyan Ganev M.P., deputy chairman of the Parliamentary Union of Democratic Forces, to the Grand National Assembly this evening after Mr. Andrey Lukanov named his cabinet. Even after the last round of consultations, held last night, Mr. Lukanov has not presented a programme.

"The opposition does not want to be in the same government with persons discredited under the totalitarian regime. It insists that the ruling party acknowledge the disastrous condition of the country and clearly assume responsibility for the national catastrophe," said Mr. Stoyan Ganev, whose strong criticism incurred him the Socialist M.P.s' obvious displeasure.

The SDS [Union of Democratic Forces] insists that people should be aware that the unpopular measures which will have to be taken are an inevitable consequence of the actions of the previous governments, including the last one led by Mr. Lukanov.

"The opposition will be constructive," Mr. Stoyan Ganev said. "It is ready right now to present a programme on a way out of the disastrous condition. The SDS is ready to name its cabinet, too."

The representatives of the Bulgarian Agrarian Party (BZNS), which also stays out [of] the new cabinet, will take a stand on the Lukanov government tomorrow.

Radical Democrat Nedelchev Reacts

AU2009112390 Sofia BTA in English 1023 GMT 20 Sep 90

["Socialists Entrench Themselves in Economy"—BTA headline]

[Text] Sofia, 20 Sep (BTA)—The Socialists are entrenching themselves in the ministries of economy, said Mr. Mikhail Nedelchev, an opposition MP of the Radical Democratic Party, commenting on the cabinet proposed by Socialist Premier Andrey Lukanov to the Bulgarian parliament yesterday.

In Mr. Nedelchev's opinion the Bulgarian Socialist Party has not only kept the key economic ministries, but has appointed its own trustworthy people who for years have had information about things, persons, who have been and still are key figures. The name he mentioned as the most striking example was that of Mr. Belcho Belchev who, besides keeping his post as minister of finance, is named Premier Lukanov's deputy in the new cabinet. Mr. Belchev has held the Ministry of Finance for a long time, except for an interval in the last few years before Zhivkov was overthrown.

The fact that some ministries—of defense, of foreign economic relations and that of foreign affairs will be headed by the deputies of the former ministers is considered quite normal by the opposition MP. "This was the practice at the time of the totalitarian regime", he said. "But the system is disintegrating and without a single good word the Socialists dismissed a man like General Dobri Dzhurov who has held the Ministry of Defense for 28 years", Mr. Nedelchev went on to say. This is particularly interesting, because it was clear that the Bulgarian Socialist Party would form a one-party cabinet, and in confrontation with the opposition at that. Even a cursory glance on the membership of the cabinet and the distribution of ministerial seats will be enough to see how the layers of the system are displaced. The almost unknown names of the new ministers of education, of science and higher education, of employment and social welfare show that the socialists are actually interested in the economy, the opposition MP said.

Events Prior To Lukanov's 19 Sep Election Noted

SDS Wants Cabinet Using SDS Platform

AU1909112990 Sofia DUMA in Bulgarian 18 Sep 90 p 2

[Boris Gergov report: "Union of Democratic Forces (SDS) Would Support Government Based on Program Consistent With SDS Election Platform"]

[Text] "We could support a government if its program is based on the election platform of the Union of Democratic Forces [SDS], and if its members were able to implement the program within a period determined by the Grand National Assembly." This is stated in a statement of the SDS Coordinating Council on the president's proposal to form a government based on a program [to be adopted by the National Assembly]. It was presented to the journalists who took part in the 17 September news conference of the SDS Coordinating Council.

The statement suggests that "the Bulgarian Socialist Party [BSP] is apparently not capable of implementing its election program and cannot rule the country." Thus, the SDS Coordinating Council, concerned with Bulgaria's destiny, states in its statement that it is prepared to assume responsibility for managing the country. However, the existing distribution of seats in the Grand National Assembly compels it to specify the conditions under which it could support a government based on a program. "The SDS Coordinating Council considers that it is absolutely necessary to fully clarify the issues and the terms within which they will be resolved."

At the news conference it was announced that the propaganda beginning of the SDS campaign for the election of municipal organs was marked by the 17 September SDS rally in Sofia. According to the decision of the SDS Coordinating Council it was mandatory that all SDS members of the Grand National Assembly participate in the rally. All SDS candidates for seats in the Grand National Assembly who were not elected will join the municipal elections campaign. The SDS Coordinating Council has issued special instructions for the election campaign.

Mikhail Nedelchev said that the SDS Coordinating Council thinks that the BSP will split after its congress.

Mikhail Nedelchev also said that the SDS Coordinating Council thinks that Dr. Konstantin Trenchev must appear in court only as a witness. His phrase about attacking the BSP headquarters was not an instigation and was taken out of context.

As of 18 September the SDS Coordinating Council appointed Georgi Spasov to be DEMOKRATSIYA director. Since Rumyana Uzunova, appointed chief editor by the SDS Coordinating Council, has difficulty in obtaining prolonged leave from Radio Free Europe, her name will be added to the newspaper's masthead later.

Opposition's Approach Criticized

AU2009085590 Sofia DUMA in Bulgarian 16 Sep 90 p 1

[Untitled article by Slavcho Vodenicharov]

[Text] The Coordinating Council of the Union of Democratic Forces expressed its final decision, at last, which was announced in its latest declaration: The opposition shall not participate in the government. According to the declaration, the decision is based on the fact that the necessary conditions for the establishment of a coalition cabinet have not been guaranteed. It is not surprising that numerous arguments are cited to justify this stand. As the people's saying goes: Once you make up your mind to reject an offer, you will find sufficient reasons to justify your decision. Nevertheless, it is not a question of personal, familiar, or even social relations; it is a question of state and public affairs, which determine the destinies of an entire nation.

The profound meaning of the opposition's refusal to participate in a coalition government is its intention to prove the incapability of the Bulgarian Socialist Party to rule under the new conditions, despite the fact that it won 52 percent of the votes during the parliamentary elections. I am certainly not wrong in saying that political demagogy has turned into political perfidy. This is the only way of describing such actions, considering that we are confronted with a rather strange political paradox.

On the one hand, we are facing the opposition's stubborn refusal to assume its share of responsibility for Bulgaria's present and future by participating in a coalition government. On the other hand, we are confronted with the opposition's insatiable ambition to participate in the provisional administrations of local people's councils and townships. Naturally, the opposition's long-term goal is to win the local government elections.

A strange situation has thus emerged. The opposition refuses to participate in a coalition government, which is the central executive organ of the state, while it is striving to participate in the administration of the local executive organs. Where is your logic, gentlemen? Is it not true that the government, which according to your categorical demand should be exclusively headed and composed of the ruling party's members, will act through the local government organs? However, is it not also true that the Law on Amendments and Addenda to the Law on People's Councils, which was recently adopted by the Grand National Assembly, stipulates as follows in connection with the local government organs: "None of the political forces should be allowed to hold a majority in the provisional Executive Committees and administrations?"

Translated into simple, colloquial terms this means the possibility of obstructing the implementation of government decisions.

Logic, however, requires a different solution. Considering that the opposition refuses to participate in a coalition government, it should not strive so eagerly to participate in the provisional local government organs which are expected to be appointed. This aspiration would be justified only if the local government organs were directly elected by the people.

Stormy Assembly Debate on Power Separation Bill

AU1909185590 Sofia BTA in English 1738 GMT 19 Sep 90

["Depoliticization: Still Under Question Mark"—BTA headline]

[Text] Sofia, 19 Sep (BTA)—The Bulgarian parliament today became the scene of a stormy debate over a bill that would depoliticize the Army, the police, the law courts, the prosecutor's offices and the diplomatic service. "By this legislation the BSP [Bulgarian Socialist Party] will be finally separated from the state," said Dr. Zhelyu Zhelev, president of the Republic, introducing the bill last Friday [14 September].

In today's debate the opposition declared itself categorically in support of the depoliticization.

"The bill violates human rights, it is unconstitutional and inconsistent with international law instruments, it would give us a bad name in the eyes of the world": The Socialist M.P.'s advanced these arguments against the depoliticization bill. When the bill was discussed in the Legislative Committee, only the Socialist M.P.'s voted against it.

The M.P.'s of the Bulgarian Agrarian Party (BZNS) also supported the depoliticization. Their representative described the bill as an initial impetus for genuine democratization in Bulgaria. He recalled that between 1922 and 1948 in Bulgaria there was a civil servants law whereby civil servants could not be members of party organizations. "This law was abolished by the Communist Party, and it still opposes depoliticization": These words by a BZNS M.P. evoked the Socialists' indignation.

The debate on the depoliticization bill will continue tomorrow.

Parliament Ratifies EC Economic Treaty

AU1909190790 Sofia BTA in English 1750 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Sofia, 19 Sep (BTA)—Today Bulgaria's parliament ratified the Agreement on Trade, Trade and Economic Cooperation Between Bulgaria and the European Communities, signed on May 8, 1990.

This agreement is in the best interests of Bulgaria and creates a fine contractual and legal framework for the promotion of relations with the EC. It will help trade and economic cooperation in fields of shared interest, M.P.'s of different parliamentary factions stressed in their statements.

On a motion of the Economic Policy Committee, the Grand National Assembly adopted a resolution assigning the Council of Ministers to take further steps to secure a preferential tariff treatment of Bulgarian imports by the European Community.

"When the agreement was drafted, the size of the economic slump in Bulgaria was still unclear, the Bulgarian lev was still not devalued against the dollar and the other convertible currencies. As a result of these two processes, the per capita gross national product turned out to be exceedingly low and in this indicator Bulgaria can be treated with very good reason as a developing country," said Mr. Ivan Kostov M.P., chairman of the Economic Policy Committee, motivating the request for preferential tariff treatment. Bulgaria has applied for such treatment back since the mid-70's.

Parliament recommended that the competent state bodies enter in negotiations for the conclusion of a new, "second generation" agreement with the European Communities.

Oil Shortage Threatens Winter Heating in Sofia

AU1909170190 Sofia DUMA in Bulgarian 16 Sep 90 pp 1, 2

[Katya Yaneva report]

[Text] Yesterday the Traycho Kostov Thermoelectric Power Plant, the largest one in Sofia, was operating normally, and it is expected to continue to do so during the next three months. Fuel will be available until the New Year, but from then on everything will depend on the petroleum deliveries. Although the thermoelectric plant is gas-fired, heavy fuel oil is also needed during the winter months, and this is in short supply.

At the moment the plant's nine tanks are empty. Only 1,000 tonnes of fuel oil—less than one day's supply—are held in store.

Even if the planned quantities of fuel arrive, the thermoelectric power plant will not be able to utilize them. A purifying facility for the plant's extension has been under construction for two years and is still not completed. Without this treatment facility, all the plant's capacities cannot operate because a new ecological disaster will strike the Iskur River.

There are no plans to supply fuel oil to the Slatina auxiliary power plant because it was supposed to have been shut down. However, the construction organization has not established the necessary connections, and the Slatina plant will continue to operate, provided that it has fuel to burn.

Only water poses no problems. The power plant draws water from the Pancharevo Lake, the level of which is more or less satisfactory, and it also has two water sources of its own.

The capital's steam central heating supply may also suffer as a result of shortages of acids, alkanes, and chemicals. The power generating section of the Sofia Thermoelectric Power Plant was shut down in August because of a lack of sulfuric acid. Together, the Traycho

Kostov and Sofia Thermoelectric Power Plants supply over 60 percent of the capital's thermal energy requirements.

If no fuel oil is found for the power plants, the winter may be not only colder, but also darker. A report of the Committee for the Energy Industry states that the fuel shortage will reduce the plants' production capacities and may also disrupt the central heating network; this will lead to excessive consumption of electricity, for which no provision has been made in the energy balances.

For the time being, the idea of lowering the room temperature in homes by a few degrees has not been discussed, but it is certain that we can raise it by a few degrees, if we bleed the steam radiators. Anyone can do this after the water from the feeder station has been flushed. Special service firms can do this, but their fees are high.

However, this winter we can rely on the fact that the central heating network in Sofia is in a good condition. We were assured of this by Vladimir Vodenicharski, chief of the production and technological department of the Traycho Kostov Thermoelectric Power Plant. Repairs and maintenance have been carried out in good time and the installations are ready for operation.

Police Discover Black Market Diesel Fuel Depot

AU1909190390 Sofia BTA in English 1711 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Sofia, 19 Sep (BTA)—The police discovered a large black market depot of diesel fuel in Sofia. This is the fourth clandestine depot of diesel fuel found over the last few days in the Bulgarian capital where car owners wait between 15 and 25 hours to refuel their tanks in endless queues in front of the state-run filling stations.

The police detected the black-marketeers, acting on an anonymous telephone tip-off. In front of a house in the suburbs of Sofia the policemen found two TIR [Transports Internationaux Routiers—European International Trucking] trucks with Iranian licence plates which were refuelling with diesel fuel. The Iranian truckers, transiting Bulgaria, explained they had arranged with a Bulgarian at a motel near Sofia to receive from him 1,000 litres of diesel fuel against 250 U.S. dollars, i.e. At 40 cents the litre.

Two Bulgarians, who were present at the refuelling, managed to escape when the police arrived.

The policemen found five diesel fuel tanks of different capacity in the four-storey house, along with other scarce items: coffee, sugar, etc.

The house owner claimed that he needed the diesel fuel to heat his backyard hothouse which had nothing planted in it. He said he got the fuel from "random sources" who diverted fuel from state-run projects against 0.20 leva a litre. He said he knew nothing about the Iranian trucks and that "they were stealing his property."

U.S. Media Coverage of Sofia Events Criticized

AU1909175590 Sofia DUMA in Bulgarian 16 Sep 90 p 4

[Krasimir Ivandzhiyski commentary: "What Is our Contribution to CNN?"]

[Text] In addition to the international news agencies, videocassettes on programs dispatched by our television network to other television stations, along the lines of international exchange, are among the most important media influencing worldwide public opinion about topical events in our country. The documentaries, televised by the U.S. Cable News Network, CNN—a satellite network "suspended" thousands of kilometers over the equator, and one of the most powerful satellite news systems in the world today, carrying news, reports, and commentaries all over the world for about 24 hours a day—are particularly important.

As it appears from some CNN programs—programs which are more and more frequently received in Bulgaria as a result of the growing number of satellite antennas—some people from our national television network are also contributing to this exchange. It is beyond question that this kind of work requires objectivity and lack of political bias. This is the reason why we cannot fail to point out certain puzzling aspects of the "feature" dispatched to CNN in connection with the arson attack against the Bulgarian Socialist Party [BSP] headquarters.

Against the background of the well-known scene showing a "Bulgarian Indian" covered with white paint who is holding a piece of meat stolen from a nearby restaurant, which he is cooking on the fire which has already enveloped the building's cafeteria, the causes of the arson are explained by....Konstantin Trenchev, of all people, whose role and presence on the site of the party headquarters arson are still under investigation. With his characteristic manner of "placing the appropriate emphasis" on things he asks: Who would benefit from the arson? He immediately provides the answer that "it can only be the collapsing communism," and adds that the arson should be a warning for worse things to come. The commentary accompanying his statement explains that "the Podkrepa Trade Union has restored the traditions of free trade union movement in our country," while, in the meantime, Trenchev goes on accusing the ruling party, namely the BSP, of "being unwilling to....assume the political responsibility for changes in our country."

The report contains other elements of this kind. However, it is much more important that our colleagues, who are preparing the television programs for exchange with foreign networks, should ask themselves whether Western viewers are really interested in watching such features, and how this kind of presentation is going to

impress politically educated people? Last, but not least, they should ask themselves whether we, namely all the Bulgarian people, are not going to suffer from someone's political deviations.

Podkrepa's Trenchev Has Not Applied for Visa

AU1909203290 Sofia BTA in English 1754 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Sofia, 19 Sep (BTA)—Dr. Konstantin Trenchev, president of the Podkrepa Labour Confederation, has not applied for travel abroad and for this reason this matter was not raised at the Sofia City Prosecutor's Office, Mrs. Anna Karaivanova, deputy city prosecutor, told the BTA today.

The popular opposition leader has been charged with incitement in the looting and burning of the headquarters of the Bulgarian Socialist Party Supreme Council on August 26. A measure of restraint has been enforced.

It was reported from Washington yesterday that the AFL/CIO has protested to the Bulgarian authorities over the foreign travel ban imposed on Dr. Trenchev. The Podkrepa leader was to attend a conference organized by the Vienna-based International Confederation of Free Trade Unions which will open in Geneva, Switzerland, tomorrow.

Presidential Decree Restores Tolbukhin's Old Name

AU1909185390 Sofia BTA in English 1757 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Sofia, 19 Sep (BTA)—Dr. Zhelyu Zhelev, president of the Republic, has issued a decree whereby the town of Tolbukhin has its old name, Dobrich, restored.

Dobrich (population: 110,000), 50 km to the north of Varna, emerged in the 15th century when it was called Hadzhioglu Pazardzhik, and in 1882 it was named Dobrich. Between 1913 and 1916 and 1919 and 1940 it was incorporated into Romania under the name of Bazardjik. In 1949 it was named after Soviet Marshal Fedor Tolbukhin (1894-1946), commander of the Ukrainian 3rd Front during World War II. Under Marshal Tolbukhin's command the Red Army marched into Bulgaria on September 8, 1944.

Official Position on Gulf Conflict Presented

AU1909124990 Sofia BTA in English 1217 GMT 19 Sep 90

["Bulgaria and the Gulf Crisis"—BTA headline]

[Text] Sofia, 19 Sep (BTA)—Bulgaria is the most severely hit by the Gulf crisis, a Bulgarian official stated. The deputy minister of foreign affairs, Mr. Filip Ishpekov, told journalists at a news conference today that, according to the latest calculations, Bulgaria's in-principle position on Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and her observance of the sanctions imposed by the United Nations Security Council will cost the country one milliard [billion] 388 million dollars this year only.

Mr. Ishpekov explained that next year's losses are expected to be to the same tune.

This year's losses arise from the fact that Iraq will not pay back half of the credit granted to that country by Bulgaria (618 million dollars), from the non-delivery of oil amounting to 640 thousand [metric] tons which was to be directly supplied by Iraq and another quantity of 2.5 million tons of oil (also of Iraqi origin) which was to be supplied by the Soviet Union. The mess with the oil supplies and the price differences will result in a loss of 565 million dollars.

To this a loss of 205 million dollars should be added arising from the non-fulfillment of engineering projects in Iraq and Kuwait, unperformed transport activity in these two countries, and from the non-delivery of Bulgarian goods to them.

Mr. Ishpekov reminded that Bulgaria addressed the UN Security Council, raising the question of being given some compensation. A dialogue is being conducted with the European Community and the 24 developed industrial countries. "According to information received, Bulgaria's demand to get compensation is favorably looked upon", he underlined.

The deputy minister announced that 694 Bulgarian citizens are still in Iraq, women and children included. They are keeping in touch with the Bulgarian diplomatic mission in that country. "They are treated in an unfriendly way", Mr. Ishpekov said.

The concern over the Bulgarian community in Iraq is growing with every passing day because 431 people want to come back to Bulgaria immediately. The Bulgarian side is taking action to secure the return of the Bulgarian citizens.

Replying the question why Bulgaria is not participating in the measures taken against Iraq with a military contingent, Mr. Filip Ishpekov answered that the world organization, which is the basic guarantor of peace and security in the world, did not adopt a decision for sending multinational forces to the Persian Gulf and that the units in Saudi Arabia are there at the invitation of the official authorities in that country. In this connection the deputy minister explained that Bulgaria has no diplomatic relations with Saudi Arabia, but that she is willing to establish such relations, expressing the hope that this is a desire shared by Saudi Arabia, too.

Bulgaria has supplied chemical protection equipment to the countries hit by the Gulf crisis. The possibility is being discussed of sending a Bulgarian team of physicians to Jordan to render assistance to the refugees.

Aid Requested To Compensate for Embargo on Iraq

LD1909152290 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1330 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier today sent a letter to the Commission of European Communities, which coordinates aid for the countries of Central and Eastern Europe through a group of 24 advanced states. He wrote about the negative consequences which the Czechoslovak economy has to resist as a consequence of our strict observance of the UN embargo on Iraq. This is most apparent in nondeliveries of Iraqi crude oil, with which Czechoslovakia had hoped to compensate for the shortage caused by the USSR's failure to fulfill crude oil deliveries.

Minister Dienstbier has asked for an extraordinary session of the group of 24 to be convened, and for extraordinary measures to be adopted to help our economy.

Britain's Thatcher Continues Talks With Leaders

Envisions New European Unity

LD1809104490 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 1034 GMT 18 Sep 90

[By Chris Moncrieff, PA chief political correspondent, in Prague]

[Text] The prime minister spoke today of her vision of a "great area of democracy" stretching from the west coast of the United States to the far eastern reaches of the Soviet Union. In a historic speech to the Federal Assembly of Czechoslovakia in Prague, Mrs. Thatcher also confessed to Britain's "shame" at the 1938 Munich agreement, which resulted in Czechoslovakia's dismemberment.

The prime minister, the first British head of government ever to visit Czechoslovakia, praised the country's new leaders for their "fearless" battle against the overwhelming odds of communist oppression which led to its downfall last winter.

Mrs Thatcher warned the European Community it must not be too concerned with its own development to take the longer view. "We must grasp the opportunity which these great events in Eastern Europe give us to build afresh," she said.

Mrs Thatcher was presenting to the assembly a facismile copy of the Magna Carta which she said was a "source of inspiration for Charter 77"—the movement which started the successful revolution. Czech President Vaclav Havel has alredy welcomed Mrs Thatcher's concept of a new Magna Carta for Europe.

She told Czech MPs: "The European Community should declare unequivocally that it is ready to accept all the countries of Eastern Europe as members, if they want to join, when their economies are strong enough and when democracy has taken root. There must be the prospect of full and not second-class membership for all European countries which wish to join." The community should be ready to open its doors to the countries of Eastern Europe.

"No one can travel in Eastern Europe without experiencing the desire to get away from bureaucracy and central control, and the strength of national feeling. If we can create a great area of democracy stretching from the west coast of the United States right across to the Soviet far east, that would give us the best guarantee of all for security—because democracies don't go to war with each other."

Mrs Thatcher paid the warmest possible tribute to those who led the revolution in Prague. With her in the assembly was its chairman, Mr Alexander Dubcek, the nation's leader in 1968 whose liberal policies led to the Soviet invasion. Addressing Mr Dubcek and Mr Havel, she paid tribute to the way in Charter 77 they had fought against overwhelming odds for basic human rights.

"That fight was long, hard—and triumphant. It paved the way for the downfall of communism and oppression, and for those few brief weeks last autumn, when the people of Czechoslovakia, not relying on help from outside but by their own unquenchable resolve to be free, at last regained their liberty."

But she confesed: "We failed you in 1938 when a disastrous policy of appeasement allowed Hitler to extinguish your independence. Churchill was quick to repudiate the Munich agreement, but we still remember it with shame."

However Britain rose up against tyranny and oppression and fought from the very first day of the Second World War until the last.

In the speech, made towards the end of her two-day visit to Czechoslovakia, she continued: "We never accepted during the cold war years that Eastern Europe should be permanently outcast, although none of us—myself included—expected to see the collapse of communism come so swiftly, so dramatically. Now that the cold war is dead and the barriers down, we must not lose time. The momentum which brought your freedom must now be harnessed to the task of reuniting Europe. This is no time for the European Community to say that it is too concerned with its own development to take the longer view. We must grasp the opportunity which these great events in Eastern Europe give us to build afresh."

The prime minister has been deeply impressed by President Havel's strong line against what he has described as "the evil aggression" of Iraq's President Saddam Husayn. He announced at a news conference last night he planned to send a field hospital to join the multinational force massed in the Saudi Arabian desert against Iraq's occupying troops in Kuwait.

Mrs Thatcher reiterated that there can be no concessions associated with Iraq's withdrawal from occupied Kuwait. She told the assembly: "Czechoslovakia of all countries needs no reminding that nations have to stand up to bullies, and do so at once. In contrast to 1938, the United States, Europe and indeed the wider world have responded with an impressive display of unity to Saddam Husayn's aggression. The United Nations Security Council has acted swiftly and effectively, in the way that its founders intended. And the other day we saw the President of the United States and the president of the Soviet Union stand together in Helsinki to demand Iraq's withdrawal and the restoration of Kuwait's legitimate government. In that new willingness to act together lies great hope for future peace, particularly here in Europe."

Later Mrs Thatcher was undertaking a walkabout in Prague's Wenceslas Square before flying to Bratislava in Slovakia for a short visit. Tonight she flies to Budapest to begin a two-day visit to Hungary.

Mrs Thatcher, accompanied by her husband Denis, walked with Mr Dubcek and Mr Havel from parliament to the square, where she laid flowers at the statue of Bohemian patron St Wenceslas—the rallying point for most of the revolution's protests.

Crowds gathered despite the drizzle and applauded as Mrs Thatcher laid the flowers and then went over to shake hands with several well-wishers.

Ends Talks With Miklosko

LD1809192290 Prague CTK in English 1746 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Bratislava Sept 18 (CTK)—British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher met with chairman of the Slovak National Council (Slovak parliament) Frantisek Miklosko at Bratislava Castle this afternoon.

He spoke about the historical experience of the Slovak nation, which survived despite attacks from enemies in the past. We find ourselves in the heart of Europe, not only geographically, but also in our consciousness, he said. He noted that two cultures, West and East, meet in Czechoslovakia and the preservation of their influence is also important for the country's future.

Mentioning the reunification of Germany, after which Czechoslovakia will again find itself between two powers, he said that for the good of the country as well as for balance in Europe it is important that also other powers have influence on the continent.

Miklosko appreciated Britain's offer to set up a branch of the British Council in Bratislava, to help in the establishment of English schools in Slovakia and also the visa-free travel that is to start next month.

Mrs. Thatcher was pleased to visit Bratislava, a city with a long history, and praised the help of people from Czechoslovakia to Britain during the Second World War. She recalled the struggle of the nations of Czechoslovakia for freedom during the Second World War. She expressed understanding for apprehensions in connection with the reunification of Germany and assured that Britain worked for the European Community to open the door wide for countries which have regained their freedom.

The British prime minister then met with Slovak Premier Vladimir Meciar, who had earlier been her host at a luncheon.

After the talks in Slovakia she left for Budapest. She was seen off by Premier Vladimir Meciar, head of the Czechoslovak president's office Karl Schwarzenberg and other officials.

Visa-Free Travel Agreement Reached With UK

LD1809111190 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1030 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] During British Prime Minister Magaret Thatcher's visit to Czechoslovakia notes were exchanged in Prague this morning on formulating an agreement between both governments on the abolition of visas. According to this document citizens will be able to travel to the other state for a visit which is not for gainful purposes and stay there for up to six months. This agreement affects the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man and will become effective on 1 October.

Vales Comments on 'Unsuccessful' USSR Visit

LD1909223990 Prague Television Service in Slovak 2015 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Federal Deputy Prime Minister Vaclav Vales landed at Prague Airport a few hours ago, returning from his economically important visit to Moscow.

We already reported on television that it was not very successful as far as contracts for raw materials are concerned.

At the airport, we asked him about another problem:

[Begin recording in Czech] [Correspondent] I hear that next year we will have to buy 3-4 million tonnes of oil for freely convertible currency, either from the Soviet Union or somewhere else. In any case, that could mean as much as $1 billion extra. Are you not afraid that the introduction of internal convertibility of the korunas from 1 January could lead to uncontrollable inflation?

[Vales] If the only solution was imports on the scale you have mentioned, 3-4 million tonnes, then, of course, that cannot fail to have repercussions for our (?declared) intentions on how to tackle the first steps of reform, and I think that this is not the only possibility. Even though the talks continue, the realistic result—that we would have on the table the necessary 14 or 15 million tonnes in the three stages in which we have the chance to talk

further—such a possibility remains, but it is not a certainty. I would even say that the chances at the second—republican and regional—stage are more certain than at the union level.

[Correspondent] Is it true that the Soviet side is guaranteeing the quantity we have asked for only if we take the 3 million or so tonnes in return for freely convertible currency?

[Vales] That was not a subject of the talks. The subject of the talks were this year's deliveries, part of which we have taken in return for freely convertible currency; these have not been fulfilled, and they promised to fulfill them, but next year. Naturally, such a demand has been voiced at the talks, and it is not the first time either. So far, we are pursuing all three stages, and it does not follow from this that it is inevitable, but there is a danger that we will have to (?finance) part of it in freely convertible currency. [end recording]

Comments on Talks With Sitaryan

LD1909125990 Prague CTK in English 1144 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Moscow Sept 19 (CTK correspondent)—The USSR is capable and ready to cover hardly one-half of Czechoslovakia's needs for crude oil next year, contrary to the expected delivery of 16 million tonnes, Czechoslovak Deputy Premier Vaclav Vales told newsmen here today.

Vales has been holding two-day talks with Soviet Deputy Premier and Chairman of the State Committee for External Economic Relations Stepan Sitaryan and other government officials.

A positive result of the talks is that the two countries agreed to conclude a payments and banking agreement for next year around October 10. No progress was achieved in drafting an agreement on lists of selected raw materials delivered to Czechoslovakia and an agreement on ways of calculating Czechoslovakia's 1990 assets, to total about 700 million rubles this year, after the two countries pass over to new conditions in payments on January 1, 1991.

Vales said the Soviet side has not yet finished drafting its economic plan for next year and was therefore unable to discuss the volumes of deliveries. Talks on this issue are to continue in Prague on October 8-12.

As far as crude oil is concerned, the Czechoslovak side puts special emphasis on contacts on union level, as well as on talks with the union republics and regions. In conjunction with the Czechoslovak-Soviet government talks, contacts were being established with the Tyumen region, offering the possibility of oil supplies in exchange for direct participation in its production. Czechoslovakia could buy around 3 million tonnes annually in the Tyumen region.

Relations between enterprises in Czechoslovakia and the Russian Federation are promising as the future talks between the two sides will be attended by representatives of enterprises. Through direct contacts with the republics and regions of the USSR, Czechoslovakia wants to compensate for insufficient supplies of energy resources and exports of Czechoslovak products on the union level. A certain problem is posed by the fact that the exact future powers of the individual republics have not yet been defined.

The Czechoslovak delegation led by Vaclav Vales is going to Kiev today, where an agreement on direct contacts between Czechoslovakia and the Ukraine is expected to be signed.

Maslyayev Denies Asking for Political Asylum

AU2009090790

[Editorial Report] Prague ZEMEDELSKE NOVINY in Czech on 12 September on page 1, under the headline "Strange News From Moscow," publishes a 450-word article signed by Jan Subert.

The article says that Maslyayev, the Soviet soldier who asked for political asylum in Czechoslovakia, indirectly charges the Office of the President with lying when he denies that he has asked for asylum at Prague Castle. The article states that "the price that Maslyayev will have to pay is finally clear." The paper states further that "it is possible to say with a high degree of certainty what the Soviet side will contend. Everything points to the fact that there was no written document signed by Maslyayev when he asked for asylum." The paper also says that Maslyayev's declaration was apparently made under pressure and that there are many witnesses who can testify to what really have happened.

In the conclusion the article states that "the Office of the President should issue an order for our diplomats in Moscow to meet the soldier personally."

Japanese Trade Minister Received for Talks

LD1809153490 Prague CTK in English 1441 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Tokyo Sept 18 (CTK)—Czechoslovak Economy Minister Vladimir Dlouhy met here today with Japanese International Trade and Industry Minister Kabuno Muto who showed interest in Czechoslovakia's economic reform and possibilities for Japanese firms to cooperate with Czechoslovak partners.

During his talks with managers of the Japan Development Bank, the Czechoslovak minister was informed about the use of economic tools to influence effectively the structure of the national economy.

Minister Dlouhy also met with representatives of Japan's industrial and business circles whom he assured of the Czechoslovak Government's firm intention to switch the

backward Czechoslovak economy to the system of management which is common in the world and which guarantees investors' certainties.

The Czechoslovak minister started a week-long working visit to Japan yesterday.

Federal Assembly Committees Discuss Reform

AU1809144790 Prague HOSPODARSKE NOVINY in Czech 13 Sep 90 p 8

["ha"-signed report: "A Single Market"]

[Text] Yesterday, just like on Tuesday [11 September], the deputies—judged by their contributions to the discussion—did not doubt even for a while that a speedy transformation of our economy is the only way to form a modern market system with a pronounced social program and with ecological priorities. However, one of the concrete steps—internal convertibility—incited an extensive debate. To devaluate or not to devaluate, that is the question. And if so, who will be the guarantor of certain aspects of social security of the citizens if the shift in the rate of exchange of the dollar causes the bankruptcy of several enterprises? That would be the briefest characterization of the debate. The experts, whom the deputies asked for expert evaluation of the scenario, again took the floor. Dr. Zdislav Sulc of the Czechoslovak Economic Forum again explained that the systemic measures, like the foreign currency standards and regulation, should be only temporary. Engineer Miroslav Hrncir from the Economic Institute of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences confirmed that internal convertibility is necessary for the reform selected by the government, albeit the devaluation of koruna by 50 percent by 1 January 1991 is only one possibility in the variety of ways to reach this goal.

Vladimir Dlouhy, minister of the economy, admitted that the devaluation will have a greater impact in some regions. At the same time, he pointed out that when the direct management is implemented and the jurisdictions divided, the responsibility of the national governments for regional policies will constantly grow. As far as the federation is concerned, it must operate as a whole so as to gain the maximum return with the minimum outlays. Pavel Hoffman, minister of strategic policy, complemented this contribution: "The entire reform is built on the idea that as the operation of our economy is transformed, so will the integrative relations of the republics."

Vaclav Klaus, federal minister of finance, responded to additional comments on the danger of the foreign trade liberalization and of the currency exchange rates. It is obvious that the issue of foreign trade is a key problem, and the prize liberalization is impossible without its complementary part, i.e., foreign trade and currency exchange rates.

A complex discussion on the precise phrasing of the statement concluded the two-day joint session of the budget and economic committees of the Federal Assembly. The committees recommend to the government in the statement, among other things, that it employs all available privatization methods in the privatization (cash sale, coupons, long-term credit, employee shares) without preference to one of them and that it also consider in the preparation of the privatization law the temporal sequence of individual tasks.

Parliament Passes Law Supporting Private Business

LD1809190690 Prague CTK in English 1827 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Prague Sept 18 (CTK)—The Czechoslovak parliament today passed a law on taxes on incomes of the population, the purpose of which is to support private business.

The new law, providing for lower tax rates compared with legislation that existed so far, puts private businesses on an equal footing with state and cooperative enterprises.

Finance Minister Vaclav Klaus said when explaining the law that it was a temporary one and would be replaced by a new law applying to all kinds of the population's activities within two years.

The Federal Assembly approved of an agreement between Czechoslovakia and the Belgium-Luxembourg economic union on mutual support and protection of investments.

The law gives investors of the signatory states guarantees that their property would not be expropriated or affected in any other way by the other party.

The deputies agreed to suspend the parliamentary session on Thursday and resume work on October 1.

New Joint Stock Bank Established in Prague

AU1809173590 Prague SVOBODNE SLOVO in Czech 12 Sep 90 p 1

["SKA"-signed report: "What Is Pragobank?"]

[Text] Prague—The Pragobank joint stock company became our newest bank at yesterday's constituent meeting in Prague. The shareholders are six state enterprises and the participation of a foreign partner is also being considered. The bank will probably open at the end of next March. Pragobank will be a small banking institution for a general clientele, including private entrepreneurs, and wants to offer a wide range of banking services, including money-changing services. This is certainly a breakthrough in our current banking system which, at its existing level, is insufficient to satisfy the needs of its clients and eventually—without its substantial expansion—it will not even be possible to imagine the successful course of our economic reform.

Death of Foreign Trade Minister Questioned

AU1809133990 Prague LIDOVE NOVINY in Czech 11 Sep 90 p 2

["(Mly)"-signed report: "Unconfirmed Suspicion"]

[Text] Reports have appeared recently to the effect that engineer Slavomir Stracar, minister of foreign trade, died under suspicious circumstances. It is being said that an autopsy was performed in Brazil, however, only general medical reports have been received. Our pathologists allegedly doubt that the heart, the failure of which was supposed to have been the cause of death, is his actual heart. Allegedly his heart was sent to London for expert examination. There are also rumors that the desk in the minister's office was pried open and that important documents were stolen.

Jan Langos, federal minister of the interior, told us in this connection that the Office for the Protection of the Constitution and Democracy in Kosice was investigating whether all the international agreements and normal procedures which apply in such cases have been met. So far, everything indicates that international agreements have not been violated. The rumors about sending the heart to London are false. The story about the minister's desk being pried open and plundered are equally false. Minister Langos told us that he would hold talks with the Brazilian ambassador and that he will ask him for a speedy delivery of the clinical report, a full report on his illness, and the autopsy documents. According to the minister, it is logical that in the case of such an unexpected death various suspicions arise and conjectures are made, yet there is no evidence to indicate that they would be true.

According to information provided by Engineer B. Sterbak, director of the Ministry of Foreign Trade Office, another autopsy has been done by Dr. Longauer in Kosice and samples have been sent for toxicological tests, the results of which will be known by the end of September.

Pithart Interviewed on Upcoming Elections

LD1809210190 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1702 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Interview with Czech Republic Premier Petr Pithart by (Zdenek Honis); place and date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] [(Honis)] Yesterday the president, in his address to parliament, praised you, if I can put it in this way. Thus, after certain criticism addressed to you by our press, this is a kind of an appreciation of the work which you, as the Czech premier, are doing, and of the patience with which you approach certain complex issues. All the same, after the parliamentary elections it was obvious that the local elections would be another main democratization step. The building of strong self-administrations in communities and towns was singled out by you in the government policy statement as the basis of the strong Czech statehood. In Slovakia, obviously, they have started from the other side, and started with the building of a strong republic, strong Slovakia—and this should latter become the guarantee for self-administration of communities, and maybe in this dwell the causes of certain internal difference between statements of both governents. Your vision of self-administration has finally entered our legislation, but in somewhat curtailed form from that which some, above all, representatives of the Association of Towns and Ciommunities [svaz mest a obci] envisaged. Or is this not so?

[Pithart] Concerning the Association of Towns and Communities—you are possibly mistaken, although their original, starting point vision was somewhat richer—but they stressed, in agreement with my vision, and in agreement with the vision of the government, the fact that self-administration has to have a material, economic foundation, that is: that self-administraions have to have at their disposal certain resources. This is a problem which is not solved either by the bill on community representation or by the bill on the elections. This is a different issue, and we are already discussing this—the bill on the property of communities. The government, at its last session, returned the draft bill back to the proposing body, and we will discuss it again tomorrow. In other words, not everything can be done immediately. One legal norm cannot put the self-administration on strong legs, so to speak. This is going slowly, because it is being done gradually. However, the Association of Towns and Communities has attended all the phases of preparation of the draft bill, and Mr. Cernik, its chairman, was present at the last session of the government—and there were no fundamental comments—obviously they are aware of the fact that not everything can be done immediately, at the same time. We are very sorry about this, but this is and always will be the case in politics.

[(Honis)] Let's now leave the topic of local elections and return to the realities of the present. One of these realities was the Civil Forum Assembly. What is your opinion of all that happened there?

[Pithart] I would rather speak about the way it was reported in the press. Some newspapers carried rather dramatic headlines, saying that the rift in the Civic Forum was hardly mended, that it was evidently merely adjourned. I understand journalists and their sense for exaggerating things. I do not see it in such a dramatic way, but there is no use pretending that no extreme voices appeared at the Assembly. The Civic Forum is too wide a coalition of political ideas, and therefore this could not fail to happen. These days the differences are demonstrated by a very sensitive and frequently discussed question of how to deal with that which people and newsmen used to refer to as nomenclature brotherhoods [nomenklaturni bratrstva]. There are such people in the Civic Forum Assembly, for whom even the legal measure of the Federal Assembly Presidium appears to be insufficient. These are the people who are obviously under the impression that they represent a healthy right

wing, and that they are fending off the remnants of a leftist approach. But if they are raising the demand that also the relatives of the representatives of the nomenclature brotherhoods should be subjected to investigation, and that they should be considered on the basis of their personal background, then I am afraid that this is not a sensible right wing, but is an extreme which paradoxically in its consequences approaches the extremes of the left wing. I value the right wing; I wrote on countless occasions in the past how Czechoslovakia and even the prewar Czechoslovakia lacked a solid right wing based on its own sound pohilosophy. Right-wing positions, in particular conservative ones, are very close to me personally, but I am afraid that these demands for purges—and in this respect I am able to use only this very word—these demands have nothing in common with a sensible right wing.

[(Honis)] The visit of Mrs. Thatcher to Prague has been not only a big political but social event. You met her: What did you speak about, and what did you find most interesting?

[Pithart] The most interesting was Mrs. Thatcher herself—her energy, dynamism, wit, and her extraordinary ability to establish contact immediately. I became aware that she is the last part in the chain of the enormous political tradition of England, and I became aware of how much we miss such a tradition. Mrs. Thatcher is impressive because she does not act in a way just to please the electorate. What I really like about Englishmen is that they appreciate this in her. I believe that this is connected with the sporting spirit of England, and when it really matters, in elections, they prefer her perhaps because they appreciate her willingness to speak freely in a political battle, and not to say things which people want to hear.

We discussed the state of our public opinion as it is reflected in the parliament. She is well informed. She knows that people in our country are rather inclined to see problems in everything, to go on and on for ever discussing everything, to criticize everything. She understands this, and she maintains that we will not move forward until we find in ourselves a will for self-discipline. A discussion can be prolonged, but the moment will come when a decision has to be made, and when a decision is made it is necessary to adhere to it, and also to defend it against the voices from the general public, even if these decisions are not popular and not pleasant.

New VPN Chairman Comments on Assembly

AU1709112790 Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak 10 Sep 90 pp 1, 2

[Interview with Fedor Gal, chairman of the Slovak Council of the Public Against Violence movement (VPN), by Michal Ac, in Bratislava on 8 September: "We Want To Maintain Our Image"]

[Text] Bratislava (NO)—The Republican Assembly of the VPN movement was held in Bratislava on Saturday [8 September]. Marian Calfa, CSFR premier, Vladimir Meciar, Slovak Republic Government premier, and other ministers and deputies of the Slovak parliament and the federal parliament participated. Petr Kucera, representing Civic Forum, greeted the delegates. The Assembly approved new statutes and other documents. Fedor Gal became the newly elected chairman of the VPN Slovak Council.

According to the agenda, the Assembly was supposed to end at half past five. At 0800, however, the extended election committee was still examining the results of the elections to the Coordinating Center and to the VPN Council. At this time, our correspondent, Michal Ac, had an opportunity to talk to Fedor Gal.

[Ac] What do you think about the Assembly?

[Gal] The Assembly, which was taken up with procedural questions, was very important. A new structure has emerged and the statutes of our movement have been approved. From this point of view I can say that the Assembly has not disappointed me.

[Ac] Many of those who took the floor pointed out that the old structures remain in place in enterprises, communities, and cities and asked why the central VPN organs do not help in this matter.

[Gal] One of the debaters criticized my television declaration in which I had said that people should look out for themselves. He was applauded. This is why I am repeating: At this time we are fighting for the autonomy of cities and communities. The economic reform program provides for the autonomy of economic subjects. In Trencianske Teplice we have made the first steps toward making the Slovak Republic stronger. The principle of autonomy is becoming the pillar of the future arrangement of our society. This movement [VPN] does not want and will not issue directives. It creates the platform for social and economic changes, it acquires people for it. We do not want to make orders, manipulate, or control others. We want to compete on the political scene by asserting our program and ideals in the same way as the enterprises with their products will have to compete on the market.

[Ac] According to the sociological study that was published in NARODNA OBRODA recently, support for the VPN has fallen by approximately one-third. What is the reason?

[Gal] Two months prior to parliamentary elections we had nine percent of potential voters and we were fifth in voters' preference. We won the elections because we offered a sensible program and the people who would be able to implement it. This is also true now. If we present a sensible program during the local elections and during the parliamentary elections to come, then if we are able

to persuade people that our movement is capable of implementing this program, the drop will be only temporary.

[Ac] What program do you offer for the local elections?

[Gal] Petr Zajac spoke about it. The substantial thing that we are trying to explain to the people is that in the local election we have to be above party interests and we have to establish coalitions at the local level. This means that we have to orient ourselves toward personalities irrespective of political affiliation. There is one criterion—the ability to solve key problems in local conditions.

[Ac] What is your experience with the existing governmental coalition?

[Gal] We participated in almost all coalition talks. The Democratic Party proved to be a disciplined partner that knows what the coalition agreements mean. The Christian Democratic Movement showed substantially less of this discipline. Despite this, I believe that the coalition must be retained, otherwise our fragile political scene will be shaken up and our government, which has embarked the road toward social and economic reforms will be in danger. We want to retain the coalition, yet not at any price, since we do not want to lose our image. We are not going to give up anything that creates the current platform of the VPN movement. I believe that our partners do realize the responsibility that our coalition has. It is a responsibility for the image of this society in the decades to come.

Slovak Parties Oppose Nationalist Intolerance

AU1809203590 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 12 Sep 90 p 3

["(DO)"-signed report: "Emphatically Against Intolerance"]

[Text] In view of the current internal political situation and the tendency to create a false and untrue impression about the situation in Slovakia's ethnically mixed regions, representatives of the political forces held a joint meeting in the Komarno District on 7 September and adopted a point of view on two of the most serious current problems:

1. We unequivocally support the Slovak Republic Government's point of view formulated at the joint meeting involving the three governments in Trencianske Teplice—that is, we are in favor of a single CSFR state.

2. We emphatically demand that in their speeches, representatives of the mass media and deputies from all the representative bodies abstain from half truths and statements based upon the unauthenticated reports of individuals which do not reflect reality. We do not want to claim that there will not be conflicts in our social life, however, these—save for unique exceptions—will not deviate from the framework of the norms of mutual coexistence. The individual parties and movements will take thorough action against manifestations of nationalistic intolerance and will urgently attempt to resolve them so that an atmosphere of discrimination is not created and so that the unity and coexistence of the citizens living in our region is not threatened.

This declaration was signed by representatives of the Czechoslovak Agrarian Party, the Democratic Party, the Coexistence Movement, the Hungarian Independent Initiative, the Christian Democratic Movement, the Hungarian Christian Democratic Movement, the Independent Party of Slovaks (apropos point 1: although its long-term policy aims are rooted in a confederative arrangement for the Czech and Slovak state), the Social Democratic Party in Slovakia, the Communist Party of Slovakia, and the Public Against Violence movement.

The participating parties and movements appeal to all of Slovakia's ethnically mixed regions to associate themselves with this declaration.

[Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak on 13 September on page 2 carries the same declaration with the exception that, this time, it was adopted by the political parties and movements in Rimavska Sobota on 10 September. The participants in the Rimavska Sobota meeting were the Public Against Violence movement, the Hungarian Independent Initiative, Slovak Renewal, the Green Party, the Czechoslovak Agrarian Party, and the Democratic Party. The report adds that the Coexistence Movement and the Christian Democratic Movement also associated themselves with the declaration.]

Slovak Government Approves Wage, Insurance Reform

AU1809173690 Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak 13 Sep 90 pp 1,2

["(NO)"-signed report: "Biela Skala, Open Up!"]

[Tex Bratislava—The Slovak Republic Government held a session in Bratislava yesterday.

It agreed with the draft principles for wage reform with comments in accordance with the points of view expressed by the Slovak Republic Government Office and with those aired at government meetings. The amendment envisages the introduction of a new system for remunerating employees in the entrepreneurial, budget, and subsidized sectors as well as the introduction of the economic regulation of wages. In the entrepreneurial sector the level of basic wage rates will be determined on the basis of a general tripartite agreement (involving the entrepreneur, the trade unions, and the state), whereas in specific wage settlements at a lower level the tariff rate must not be less than the minimum wage fixed by general agreement. It has been proposed that a single scale for wage rates be implemented in the budget and subsidized sectors; an employee's position on the wages scale will be according to the work he carries out and a wages policy based on the length of professional experience will depend on the professional and

moral adaptability and efficiency of the employee. The regulation of wages in the economic and subsidized sectors will be based upon the taxation of nominal wages, exceeding the pace agreed in the general agreement. In the budget sector the movement of individual wages will be regulated by centrally determined wage tariffs. It is envisaged that the wage measures resulting from the draft principles for wage reform will begin to be gradually implemented in 1991.

The government agreed with the draft principles for the law on the insurance system with the proviso that during its completion, the comments made at the Slovak Republic Government Legislative Council and the suggestions put forward at government meetings are utilized. Another proviso is that the law should be drafted and approved within the republics' jurisdiction. The main purpose of this legal amendment is to pass legislation which will create a national insurance industry and allow foreign insurance companies to conduct business throughout the country. It will also consider the particular traits of the current insurance system under the conditions of the conversion to a market economy. The law should contribute toward demonopolizing this sector, making the input of foreign capital possible, supporting competition in providing insurance services, strengthening the economic independence of insurance, implementing a licensing system for establishing insurance services, and introducing state supervision over its activities.

It approved draft principles for a Slovak National Council law on the state property register with comments made by the Slovak Republic Government Legislative Council and at government meetings. The law being prepared should replace the existing legal amendment for registering property, an amendment which no longer corresponds to society's needs.

It approved a draft concept for state statistics in the Slovak Republic. The plan defines the jurisdiction of the Slovak Statistical Office in the sector of state statistics in the spirit of the CSFR's federative arrangement. State statistics in Slovakia will provide objective statistical information to a wide range of users—the Slovak National Council, the Slovak Government, Slovak ministries, the Federal Statistical Office, political parties, entrepreneurs, the scientific and pedagogical community, international organizations, and the general public.

The government approved a Slovak Republic Government Personnel Roster. According to this roster, appointing and recalling—among others—the director of Slovak Television, the director of Slovak Radio, and the director of the Czechoslovak Press Agency in Slovakia are within the government's jurisdiction. It also approved the number of Slovak Government deputy ministers for the 1990-92 period (the 18 ministries will have a total of 61 or 62 deputies).

It made note of a Slovak Republic Ministry of Control report on the investigation of complaints about the economic management of the Biela Skala recreational facility and about the incorrect course of action adopted by the Slovak Fishing Union. The investigation has confirmed the unjustified utilization of state property and financial resources by a select group of Communist Party functionaries. Every year their unjustified concessions caused economic losses which were reimbursed from the state budget. For example, the investigation has ascertained that a limited group of Communist Party of Slovakia Central Committee functionaries had the right to use the Biela Skala recreation center free of charge. Since May 1989, 100 korunas per month have been paid for the use of a four to six bedroom apartment. Reimbursement for food and refreshments was calculated at a retail price. The apartments were assigned to nine functionaries; they were last occupied by I. Janak, V. Salgovic, V. Bilak, J. Sevc, O. Saling, I. Knotek, and K. Boda. Elite functionaries also had the opportunity to fish free of charge; for example, in 1986, 2,400 kilograms of fish were supplied for stocking the lakes in this district. At the same time, the annual catch per fisherman in other districts was 25 kilograms. It was at least ten times more in Biela Skala.

The Slovak Republic Government approved a complement of 21 members for the Slovak Environment Commission and also discussed several other issues.

Petr Pithart, Czech Republic premier, participated in part of the Slovak Government's discussions. In a productive debate—in which almost all those present spoke—the contents, forms, and frequency of further mutual contacts between the two governments were discussed along with the fine tuning of jurisdiction relations between the national republics and the federation.

Stasi Accused of Linking RAF, Palestinians

LD1709210990 Hamburg DPA in German 2028 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Text] Mainz (DPA)—The Federal Prosecutor's Office has clear indications that the former GDR Ministry of State Security [MfS] brought Palestinian terrorist groups and the FRG's Red Army Faction (RAF) into contact. This was revealed in an interview with Second German Television on Monday evening [17 September] by Federal Prosecutor General Alexander von Stahl.

Von Stahl said that investigative proceedings have been instituted against the former Stasi [State Security Service] chief Erich Mielke and the head of the antiterrorism department of the former GDR Ministry of State Security, Naiber. These proceedings relate to alleged support for a terrorist association.

Von Stahl says that in its investigations of the former RAF terrorists who went to the GDR, his office has discovered "that there are sufficient indications that the Ministry of State Security also supported active terrorists." Evidence has also come from a man sentenced for right-wing terrorism, who has stated that the GDR MfS supported him.

The federal prosecutor general has over 200 files on this from the GDR State Prosecutor's Office. Von Stahl explained that there is evidence that the Stasi supported terrorism in the FRG.

Fischer Certain of Steinberg's Stasi Links

LD1809143990 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 0054 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Excerpt] West Berlin (ADN)—The former GDR government commissioner responsible for dissolving the State Security Service [Stasi], Werner Fischer, is not prepared to present concrete evidence for the charges he made last week about the alleged Stasi past of GDR ministers. In an interview with today's BERLINER MORGENPOST he said he is absolutely certain with regard to Environment Minister Karl-Hermann Steinberg, whom he had named. Fischer, who is currently head of the Stasi dissolution department at the East Berlin Magistrat, declined to confirm the other names named in the media. He described the charges against Minister Rainer Eppelmann as absurd.

Fischer admitted he had no authority to make the charges he has made. His action did not fit his picture of civilized political behavior. Nevertheless, he had decided after due consideration to let this "bomb" go off. He wanted to issue a signal and to exert pressure on the government so that the Stasi investigation committee, which had been so massively hindered in its work by Interior Minister Diestel, would present concrete results prior to unification.

Fischer said that the committee has since its inception had a list of 68 names. This list is no evidence of guilt. It only proves the existence of Stasi contacts. These 68 politicians, including members of the government, have never been seriously checked out. It is essential to prevent the first freely elected government and the first freely elected parliament in East Germany "from being marked forever with the stigma of being controlled by the Stasi." The dignity of the government and parliament must be preserved. An examination of the 114 People's Chamber deputies who were entering the Bundestag was essential. [passage omitted]

Local Politicians Complain About Soviet Forces

LD1909142390 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1246 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Excerpts] Berlin (ADN)—Local politicians from all over the GDR complained on Wednesday about "unbearable" aircraft noise, the danger from flying over industrialized urban areas and firing exercises, as well as about the failure of the Western Group of the Soviet Army to observe traffic regulations. Speaking to the People's Chamber Committee for Disarmament and Defense in Berlin, they referred to many problems in local cooperation with the western group in their local areas. [passage omitted]

Committee Chairman Karl-August Kamilli pointed out that the problems with the Soviet troops "are growing in importance." He warned of the uncontrolled development of these things and of them being taken up by "irresponsible people." In view of the complete withdrawal of Soviet troops from the territory of East Germany, ways and means will have to be found of finding peaceful cooperation between the two sides near the military bases.

Deputies from local councils said that cooperation with representatives of the Soviet Army is often complicated, and they pointed to Soviet weapons sales and environmental damage. But they are interested in working together for mutual benefit over the next months and years in order to then be able to take over the installations and exercise areas hitherto belonging to the Soviet Army in an orderly way.

The Disarmament and Defense Ministery has put the draft follow-up agreement to the stationing treaty of 1957 to the People's Chamber committee and the local politicians. The politicians called upon the Defense Committee of the [FRG] lower house to continue to discuss these problems intensively after 3 October.

Further Reportage on UK Prime Minister's Visit

Meets SZDSZ Leaders; Antall Views UK Ties

LD1909215790 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 2000 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Agota Narancsik report]

[Excerpts] Hungary has no need for aid like that of the Marshall Plan. What is most important now for Eastern Europe is that it should understand the responsibility that accompanies democracy and freedom, and it should learn the methods of effective economic management, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said at her news conference, held jointly with Jozsef Antall in Budapest today. [passage omitted]

Margaret Thatcher was in agreement with the representatives of the Alliance of Free Democrats [SZDSZ], in that privatization must be carried out as soon as possible in Hungary and the economic crisis handled boldy. An emphatic identity of views was experienced at the press briefing by the British prime minister. We will highlight some excerpts of what was said there:

[Begin Antall recording] Of very great importance for Hungary is its bilateral association with the European Community, in the interest of which we will enjoy the support of the British Government in the negotiations scheduled to take place soon. Mrs. Thatcher emphatically assured support for Hungary's request to this effect, including eventual support pertaining to full membership.

In the course of the talks, we of course noted the already known fact of the abolition of compulsory visas, and there was also mention of the BBC, or possible cooperation following the lifting of the frequency moratorium. There was also discussion of privatization—Hungary's firm intention to continue privatization. In connection with this, we can enjoy the assistance and support of the British Government, regarding its privatization experiences and concerning the functioning of state enterprises in market conditions, in the period of transition. We also asked for the support of the British Government regarding banks, in the interest of facilitating investments in Hungary. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Antall, Thatcher Give News Conference

LD1909211190 Budapest MTI in English 2033 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Budapest, September 19 (MTI)—On Wednesday, the second day of her official visit to Hungary, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher gave a joint news conference with Hungarian Prime Minister Jozsef Antall.

Antall emphasized that relations with Britain had always formed an essential part of Hungary's foreign policy. In the past two days, he said, he had two consultations with the British prime minister. Their talks focussed on foreign policy issues. They exchanged views on the European security system and on Hungary's place and role in it, the current state of the Warsaw Treaty, and the political, economic and military difficulties it was causing Hungary.

During the talks, Antall emphasized how important it was for Hungary to establish bilateral relations with the European Communities. Mrs Thatcher reaffirmed that Britain would support Hungary's attempt at association and later on its application to become a full member of the Communities.

Concerning the Gulf crisis, both politicians emphasized that the U.N. resolution and the embargo imposed on Iraq should be enforced. The sides reiterated their resolution to abolish the compulsory visa system between the two countries on October 1, 1990.

The British Government offered to help accelerate the process of privatization and the transition to a market economy in Hungary.

Mrs Thatcher described her talks in Hungary as very satisfactory indeed. She recalled that she had paid her first visit to Hungary in 1984 since she considered it necessary to establish an increasing number of political, economic and commercial links with Hungary. At that time she realized that although Hungary formed an integral part of the Soviet bloc, it was interested in closer cooperation with the West. Her current visit, Mrs Thatcher said, was taking place in completely different circumstances, for which she felt indebted to Mikhail Gorbachev. The people of Hungary, embarking on the road to democratic development, will experience the great difference between dictatorship and respect for human freedom.

The new Hungary can count on the support of the British Government and the British economy, Mrs Thatcher said.

Mrs Thatcher said that during her talks with the European Communities she had repeatedly expressed her view that the conditions of associated membership should be specified individually, country by country. Hungary, for instance, could join the EC immediately, she said.

Mrs Thatcher said the signatory states should review the new European situation, in which NATO now faces a Warsaw Treaty limiting its activities to political issues only.

Thatcher Departs Budapest for Bern

LD2009073690 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 0700 GMT 20 Sep 90

[Text] Margaret Thatcher has completed her official visit and left Budapest. The British prime minister spent two days in Hungary at the invitation of Jozsef Antall. The next stop on Margaret Thatcher's European tour is Bern.

Gasoline Bought From SFRY Due to Shortfall

LD1909123890 Budapest MTI in English 1034 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Budapest, September 19, 1990 (MTI-ECONEWS)—The National Oil and Gas Corporation, (OKGT), has recently bought about 10,000 tonnes of petrol under a barter arrangement from Yugoslavia in an effort to avoid hitches in the petrol supply in Hungary. This year's petrol consumption is expected to be between 1.75 and 1.8 million tonnes.

It was necessary to conclude the deal urgently because only on Thursday will the Hungarian Government discuss the question of how much oil Hungary will buy on the free market this year to make up for reduced Soviet deliveries.

The government's proposal states that 450,000 tonnes of oil and 35,000 tonnes of petrol will have to be imported this year, at a cost of 100-110 million USD (U.S. dollars).

The Soviet Union will deliver only 5.092 million tonnes of oil this year instead of the contracted 6.48 million tonnes. OKGT therefore bought 208,000 tonnes of oil for 30 million USD at the start of the year, and 243,000 tonnes of Algerian and Libyan oil for 60 million USD in August.

After processing the 450,000 tonnes of light oil Hungary plans to buy this year, OKGT intends to export the heating oil derived, thus recouping 25-30 million USD.

Hungarian exports of oil derivatives ere worth some 400 million USD in 1989, and in the first seven months of this year, 230 million USD. It is not likely that OKGT can match last year's results in the rest of the year because they have no freely available diesel oil stocks at present.

Antall Receives U.S. Enterprise Official

LD1909183690 Budapest MTI in English 1709 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Budapest, September 19 (MTI)—Hungarian Prime Minister Jozsef Antall met John C. Whitehead, president of the Fund for Enterprise Promotion of the United States, in parliament building on Wednesday.

The prime minister stressed that Hungarian-U.S. ties had witnessed sweeping changes since the new Hungarian Government took office. Relations between the two countries are marked by endeavours to exploit every single possible form of cooperation between friendly and sovereign states. The Hungarian Government emphasizes the need for a U.S. presence in every international forum in Europe.

Antall and Whitehead weighed up the state of privatization in Hungary, and established that as a whole the Hungarian banking system has not yet changed its approach to the extent required for new ventures to be financed successfully.

President Goncz Returns From U.S. 19 Sep

LD1909135690 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1000 GMT 19 Sep 90

["Excerpts" of interview with President Arpad Goncz by Julia Torda upon his arrival from the U.S. on 19 September; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Torda] What was the most important moment for you as the president of the Republic, and what was the most memorable moment for you as a writer during this six-day visit?

[Goncz] Let us start with me as a writer, perhaps. Jefferson's house. [passage omitted] As for me as the president, perhaps that I have brought home the bill which will be submitted to the American Congress by Congressman Cox, in which he proposes that Hungary be relieved from the disadvantages still striking countries under communist influence. We had the opportunity to comment on it, too.

[Torda] What do you think was missing from your program?

[Goncz] I would very much have liked to have met President Bush. [passage omitted]

[Torda] What are the hopes and what are the worries you sensed in connection with our development?

[Goncz] Since my last visit, the appetite for investment that I sensed has increased remarkably. They have far exceeded the exploitative stage. They are not striving for monetary profit, but they would invest serious sums in Hungarian industry in the interest of establishing an Eastern European presence and seeking advantages later. They find the pace of privatization and legislative work slow, and that this makes unimpeded cooperation more difficult. At the same time, the amplifying of nationalistic phenomena was one of the things they called to my attention several times. It makes the United States Government worried and anxious. On the other hand, I came across the condemnation of Hungarian anti-Semitic manifestations in Hungary on several occasions. I felt that they were objecting to it very much.

[Torda] What will be your next tasks at home?

[Goncz] First of all, I will try to get some sleep. This, however, will take place tomorrow. Now, at 1045, I will meet Mrs. Thatcher; then it is Whitehead [name as heard], US deputy secretary of state, who is coming at 1500; and at 1845 there is a reception at the British Embassy.

[Torda] Are you planning more foreign travel and, if so, where?

[Goncz] A journey to Serbia, Slovenia, Croatia is set, a journey to Kiev and Carpathia is due at the end of the month, and an invitation to West Germany in October and to Japan and South Korea in November is planned. These are the ones I know now for certain.

Antall's Office Views Radio Free Europe Meeting

LD1909211490 Budapest MTI in English 2009 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Statement by the Press Office of the Prime Minister issued on 19 September]

[Text] Budapest, September 19 (MTI)—Prime Minister Jozsef Antall met the Board of International Broadcasting of Radio Free Europe (RFE) on Wednesday. The board was holding a session in Budapest with President Malcolm Forbes in the chair.

The Hungarian prime minister said that over the past few decades RFE had been the main source of authentic control information for East-Central Europe. He expressed the conviction that the radio would continue to play an important role in the communications world, being non-party political, a factor that contrary to previous practice, should be strictly observed. Furthermore, RFE is an important mediator of Western ideals, social models, political concepts, European integration and the Atlantic idea. On this score, Antall recommended that the board consider publishing a "What's On?" magazine in Hungary, as well as an RFE review subsequently carrying the reports and commentaries of the radio.

Malcolm Forbes said the RFE considered it its mission to represent the same intellectual values as those fostered by the Hungarian prime minister. He said the RFE would like to be granted a medium frequency band in Hungary. Antall indicated that such demands of the RFE and other domestic and foreign applicants can only be considered after parliament has carried a new law on the mass media and lifted the frequency ban.

Prime Minister Antall Visits Italy

For reportage on the visit by Prime Minister Jozsef Antall to Italy, including a report on his 17 September press conference in Rome, please see the Italy section of the 19 September West Europe DAILY REPORT.

National Assembly Chairman Interviewed on Debates

AU1909161490 Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 15 Sep 90 pp 1, 5

[Interview with National Assembly Chairman Gyorgy Szabad by Peter Vajda in Budapest on 14 September: "May the Cracks Not Become Gulfs"; first paragraph is NEPSZABADSAG introduction]

[Excerpt] Gyorgy Szabad granted our newspaper an exclusive interview in his office on 14 September, after a tumultuous parliamentary session, and before the last plenary session of parliament preceding the local elections.

[Vajda] Mr. Chairman, during your last news conference, the memorable "Jeszenszky-conflict" was brought up, and you gave your opinion: From a parliamentary point of view, this topic had been closed when parliament voted. Nevertheless, I would like to ask how you, as chairman cum representative, experienced this incident, and what conclusions you would draw from the episode?

[Szabad] The question referred to the conflict on the day of interpellations. I try to judge things in a harmonious way as a human being, as a representative, and as chairman, and I think that also applied to this particular case. I responded to the further development of events in accordance with this attitude. In general, out of all the roles played by parliament, I grant the most significance to the most important function of the House, namely to use its legislative work to help this country make use of its possibilities. If some episode or conflict hinders our legislative work, then I worry as a human being, as a representative, and as chairman of the House. Immediately, the question arises of how one could master the difficulties. In relation to that, I would like to mention a survey conducted in a recent edition of a publication entitled SZAZADVEG [End of the Century], in which my opinion was solicited. The question refers to what I termed the "so-called" debate about urbanism and population. In my answer, I said that it would be nonsense to say that Hungary had inherited a democratic option without inheriting any cracks in the fabric of society. These cracks exist. The question is, should we sit with our arms folded and watch these cracks grow into gulfs; in other words, should we have a fatalistic attitude to these things? Or, should we try to prevent the cracks from growing into gulfs, and should we do all we can in order to repair the cracks? As I see it, one of the main functions of democratic change emerged a very long time ago in Hungarian history, or, to be more exact, in a development which began 200 years ago. I am talking about the coordination of interests, and about tolerance. In all faith, I could also say that humans should look for humans and find humans. So, if I am faced with a conflict, these are my main motives as a human being, as a representative, and as chairman of the House. During the conflict to which you were referring, therefore, I suddenly suggested a break in negotiations, rather than closing the session.

[Vajda] Did anybody think of closing the session?

[Szabad] I did not suggest the idea. The idea emerged, desires were expressed in that direction, there were even some interpellations. I suggested a break so that everyone would have the opportunity to realize that a crack might be widening. As a mediator, in spite of myself, I thought that if the meeting continued, a decision would be reached. A decision gives more of an opportunity for progress than an interruption, even a short interruption. I, therefore, was pleased that a decision was reached about the constitutional closing of the conflict.... [passage omitted]

Cardinal Glemp Meets With Political Figures

Leaders Discuss Election Date

LD1809132490 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 1200 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Excerpts] Now we are linking up with our correspondents in front of the primate's residence.

[Unidentified correspondent] Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen. We welcome you from in front of the Primate's Palace in Warsaw. Cardinal Jozef Glemp, the Polish primate invited the leading personages of Poland's political life to come to his residence at 1400 [1200 GMT]. They arrived literally a minute ago: President Wojciech Jaruzelski, Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki, Lech Walesa, the chairman of Solidarity, as well as Mikolaj Kozakiewicz and Andrzej Stelmachowski, the Sejm and Senate speakers. [passage omitted]

The talks over lunch, as it is believed, are to serve preparations for a meeting in a wider group, increased by a further 18 people. It will start in two hours time at 1600. As today's GAZETA WYBORCZA reports, they will most probably be Leszek Balcerowicz and Jan Janowski, deputy premiers, Zbigniew Bujak [joint founder of Citizens Movement Democratic Action—ROAD], Wlodzimierz Cimoszewicz [chairman of Parliamentary Club of the Democratic Left—PKLD], Anna Dynowska [chairman of Democratic Party Parliamentary Floor Group], Wladyslaw Findeisen [senator], Wladylsaw Frasyniuk [joint founder of ROAD], Bronislaw Geremek [chairman of Citizens Parliamentary Club—OKP], Aleksander Gieysztor [chairman of the Polish Academy of Sciences], Jaruslaw Kaczynski [senator and leader of Center Alliance], Ministers Aleksander Hall and Jacek Kuron, as well as Piotr Nowina Konopka [secretary of state at the President's Office], and Andrzej Wielowieyski, deputy Senate speaker, Wieslawa Ziolkowska [Democratic Left deputy]. They represent all the important political forces in Poland.

The subject of the meeting is still not fully known. It is only known that it ought to solve the fundamental argument today on the political schedule, whether presidential elections ought to precede parliamentary elections and be held in the autumn, or whether they should also be held together at the beginning of next year. The Center Alliance and ROAD to date have come out in favor of the former, the latter has recently been supported by the OKP head, Bronislaw Geremek. Prime Minister Mazowiecki is also supposed to be in favor of that idea.

As the primate's secretary has informed us, today's meeting has a private character. The group of about 40 journalists has not been allowed into the residence; we are in the courtyard of the residence, and here we are going to try to talk to the participants in this meeting. [passage omitted]

Walesa Explains Meeting

LD1809150490 Warsaw PAP in English 1400 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Warsaw, Sept. 18:—There are many various interlocutors, many opinions, and we will see what will come out of it, Solidarity leader Lech Walesa told PAP before today's meeting of Polish political leaders, hosted by Poland's primate and called roundtable number two.

In reply to the question whether President Wojciech Jaruzelski should make a decision on resignation still this week, Walesa answered that the president himself should be asked about that.

Asked whether the meeting was the repetition of the roundtable, Walesa said: If the current situation had been exactly like the one when the roundtable had been held, it could have been repeated. But this is improbable now. Social apathy and the lack of participation of masses (in the country's life) make one search for another solution. However, the meeting is not held behind the scenes at all.

Walesa negatively replied to the question about the courtesy character of the meeting. We must talk, it is necessary for us to talk. We have pluralism, and some things should be dealt with straightforwardly, he added.

OKP Chairman Cites Leaders

LD1909175390 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 1700 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] During a meeting of the Citizens Parliamentary Club [OKP], its chairman, Bronislaw Geremek, revealed the stances of Lech Walesa, Tadeusz Mazowiecki, and Wojciech Jaruzelski as presented by them at yesterday's meeting at the primate's residence. The chairman of Solidarity is said to have stated that he regards his declaration of readiness to be a candidate for the post of president to be an indispensible part of the acceleration of the tempo of political reforms in the country.

The premier said that his government will accept the stance the Sejm takes in Thursday's debate, and is ready to subserve its work and cooperation timetables with parliament to this.

The president stated that he recognizes the presidential mandate as being part of the political basket that will be the subject of the coming debates of the Sejm, and stated his readiness to leave office. He simultaneously added that he feels it is important to maintain the political climate in which political changes took place in the country over the last 18 months.

Mazowiecki Hints at Running for President

AU1909130090 Paris AFP in English 1218 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Michel LeClercq report]

[Excerpts] Warsaw, Sept 19 (AFP)—The race to become the next president of Poland has opened in earnest, following the official announcement by Solidarity leader

Lech Walesa on Monday that he wants the job. The current head of state, General Wojciech Jaruzelski, announced Wednesday that he is to ask parliament to curtail his term as president in order "to avoid unnecessary social emotions." [passage omitted]

Mr. Walesa is so far the only declared candidate to succeed him, although Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki is said by informed sources to have hinted Tuesday that he also expected to stand.

The majority of political leaders who met Tuesday with Polish church Primate Jozef Glemp over the current crisis and to decide new general elections hope that a presidential poll will be held by year's end. [passage omitted]

Mr. Mazowiecki, a former close advisor to Mr. Walesa, has the image of a man of integrity and courage, and a public opinion poll published Tuesday gave him 48 per cent of preferences, against 37 per cent for Mr. Walesa.

Should the prime minister not stand, the Citizens Movement Democratic Action (ROAD) of former Solidarity leaders which is supporting him has indicated that it will propose Foreign Minister Krzystof Skubiszewski, Senate Chairman Andrzej Stelmachowski or Solidarity Parliamentary Group Chairman Bronislaw Geremek.

These three men are not very well known, however.

But in any case the pace of events is likely to quicken. The Diet, or lower house of parliament, is due to meet Thursday and has to deal with the request by Gen. Jaruzelski to curtail his term of office.

In his statement, the incumbent head of state made clear that he would be handing over to a successor "chosen by universal suffrage," and not resigning under popular pressure. When Gen. Jaruzelski was elected by both houses of parliament last year, he was the only candidate. He had been at the head of the nation's affairs since December 13, 1981, when he led the military in a major crackdown against the then-powerful Solidarity movement.

Some 15 youths from the Confederation for an Independent Poland (KPN) staged a sit-down protest in front of the main gate of the presidential palace in central Warsaw for about half an hour Wednesday, calling on Gen. Jaruzelski to resign. About 50 uniformed police then forced them into vans and took them away, apparently to the central police station.

Police Detain Protesters at Jaruzelski's Office

LD1909112890 Warsaw PAP in English 1100 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Warsaw, Sept. 19—Soon before noon, police prevention units cleared the entrance gate to President Wojciech Jaruzelski's offices at the Belvedere Palace of members of the right-wing Confederation for Independent Poland, who gathered there earlier today to demand the president's immediate resignation.

Participants in the demonstration were detained.

Jaruzelski Sends Letter to Sejm Speaker

Letter Outlines Tenure Decision

LD1909151190 Warsaw PAP in English 1357 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Warsaw, Sept. 19—Polish President Wojciech Jaruzelski sent a letter today to Sejm speaker Mikolaj Kozakiewicz.

In tune with an earlier statement made by the president's press spokesman, Wojciech Jaruzelski, guided by a concern to prevent undesirable public sentiments and by the will to promote democracy in the state system, proposed to shorten the presidential term under the constitutional parliamentary procedure.

He also asked for the date of the end of the term to be set for the orderly transfer of his office to a president chosen in general elections.

The letter was supplemented with a draft legislative initiative on elections.

Kokzakiewicz Reads Letter to Sejm

LD2009100690 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 0710 GMT 20 Sep 90

[Letter from Polish President Wojciech Jaruzelski read at the Sejm session being held in Warsaw on 20 September by Sejm Speaker Mikolaj Kozakiewicz—live]

[Text] I am informing the esteemed chamber that yesterday the president of the Polish Republic sent a letter to me which reads as follows: Mr. Mikolaj Kozakiewicz, the speaker of the Sejm of the Polish Republic,

Dear Mr. Speaker,

The Sejm debate devoted to the political timetable including accelerated general, presidential, and parliamentary elections will be of great importance for Poland. I regard this debate and its results with great seriousness. It is being accompanied by the adoption of imperative legislative measures having a constitutional character. This is expressed in the draft amendments to the Constitution put forward to be debated by the Sejm. I support the proposed directions of these changes.

I accept with full understanding the anticipated transfer from the formula of a president elected by the National Assembly to the formula of a president [elected] in national elections, as being a consequence of the process of democratizing the state and a manifestion of reforming its highest body. Being directed by such a conviction and also acting in the spirit of my hitherto

statements, I am applying to the esteemed chamber to shorten the present presidential term of office, and to define its duration in a manner which permits the office presently being carried out by me to be handed over to a president elected in the first general elections.

I hope that such a solution confirming the logic and culture of the Polish changes will serve the good interests of the state and nation.

[Signed] Wojciech Jaruzelski

Sejm Debate on Presidential Elections Opened

LD2009094890 Warsaw PAP in English 0824 GMT 20 Sep 90

[Text] Warsaw, Sept 20—While opening today's debate of the parliament, Sejm Speaker Mikolaj Kozakiewicz informed deputies that President Wojciech Jaruzelski had sent to the Sejm a draft law on changing Poland's Constitution in its part concerning the election of president.

As the Sejm resolved to review all the matters on today's agenda, the debate will focus on three bills on changing Poland's Constitution submitted by deputies, the president and by the Sejm Constitutional Committee. The meeting will also discuss a deputies' bill on the election of president and electoral law to the Polish Sejm.

Council of Ministers Adopt Report on Culture

LD1709222290 Warsaw PAP in English 2136 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Text] Warsaw, Sept. 17—The Council of Ministers, which met here today under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki, adopted a report on culture during the transition period.

The council stressed in the introduction to the adopted document the development of self-governmental model which has to be completed but not dominated by state interventionism and sponsorship. The state involvement in the sphere of culture will be situated at three levels: national, state, and local.

The most urgent tasks include the preparation of a law on cultural activity whose principal goal will be to sort out the organizational and financial aspect of cultural institutions.

With the shortage of budgetary means, measures have been undertaken to make their spending more objective and society-oriented.

Turning to economy, the cabinet heard a report on the main problems of Polish-Soviet economic cooperation. Substantial economic difficulties troubling the Soviet partner are the cause of irregularities in the implementation of mutual trade contracts.

Intensive negotiations are also held on the impact of the new clearing system on the principles of Poland's further implementation of investments in the Soviet Union.

The Council of Ministers granted guarantees for the Exports Development Bank Ltd. to draw a credit worth 25 million ECU [European currency units] from the European Investment Bank.

The loan is to be assigned for financing development of small and medium-size firms in the processing industry, food processing industry, tourism and environmental protection.

The Council of Ministers authorized the minister of foreign affairs to make a declaration on Poland's recognition of the compulsory jurisdiction of the International Tribunal of Justice in legal disputes.

The adopted stand will be a sign of Poland's respect for the international law and full compliance with its rules.

The cabinet considered a package of executive acts to the law on the police which regulate in detail the procedure of police intervention.

The new solutions are aimed first of all at ensuring the law-abidingness of the police actions, maintaining the necessary humanitarianism and caution while using weapons as the extreme measure and enhancing individual responsibility of policemen.

PSL Decides To Leave Government for Opposition

LD1909180190 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 1700 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] A piece of last-minute and quite sensational news: The meeting of the Supreme Council of the Polish Peasant Party [PSL] has ended. The economic program will be submitted for wider discussion. The Supreme Council has decided to withdraw its political seal of approval from ministers in Tadeusz Mazowiecki's government representing the PSL, and has announced that the party is going over to the opposition in light of the cabinet's economic line.

Disposal of RSW Assets Discussed at Meeting

AU1909164490 Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish 15-16 Sep 90 p 2

['J.P' report: "The Future of Newspapers"]

[Text] The 14 September meeting of the Sejm Culture and Mass Media Commission was mainly devoted to the liquidation of the Workers Publishing Cooperative [RSW].

The chairman of the RSW Liquidation Commission, Dr. Jerzy Drygalski, read a report on the commission's work so far to abolish the RSW. The abolition legislation calls for a six-month period during which time claims for RSW assets may be filed. Not until the end of this

period, in other words October, can the Liquidation Commission dispose of or transform RSW assets. Due to the uncertainty among media employees and the resultant conflicts, the Liquidation Commission has asked the Council of Ministers to peruse ahead of time the first part the RSW assets disposal plan.

If the Council of Ministers agrees to this, the process of transforming the RSW could begin this month. The supreme objective is to create a new and economically efficient press market.

The RSW assets disposal plan possesses the following five aims:

—To encourage the emergence of strong Polish publishers;
—To privatize not just the press, but also the bulk of printing and distribution;
—To allow foreign capital on the Polish press market, subject to a certain limit;
—To protect fixed assets such as health clinics, vacation homes, clubs etc.;
—To protect the independence of the Polish press, taking into account not just the political aspect, but also the economic one.

Poland Looks for Alternative Gas Sources

AU1809075290 Warsaw GAZETA WYBORCZA in Polish 13 Sep 90 p 3

['Kak'-signed report: "Gas Alternatives"]

[Text] If the USSR were to completely cut off gas supplies to Poland, we would face economic catastrophe. Home production (approximately 4 billion cubic meters annually) would not even satisfy the basic needs of society and demand from individual recipients.

The Ministry of Industry and the Polish Petroleum and Gas Mining Industry are investigating ways to reduce our dependency on Soviet supplies.

The World Bank and the European Investment Bank have given Poland a loan of $310 million to increase gas production to approximately 6.6 billion cubic meters by the year 2000. However, Polish sources will not be able to satisfy the increasing demand for gas.

Poland is investigating the possibility of imports from Algeria and Norway. Iran and Denmark are also alternatives.

Gas from Norway would reach Poland through Germany's gas pipeline network (this will become possible in the mid-1990's), or through Sweden and the Baltic (after the year 2000). Interested foreign firms would finance the pipeline to the Polish border.

Algerian gas could be transported in liquefied form aboard gas tanker ships (cost of each such ship would be $200 million) to a special gas terminal which would be built in Gdansk's Northern Port (cost from $330 million to $735 million).

Hungary and CSFR are interested in Polish plans for gas imports and the use of such a gas terminal as well as the Polish gas pipeline network. Additionally, there is another alternative, namely, a joint project of a gas terminal in Yugoslavia and a gas pipeline to Poland that would run through other countries.

Enterprises Show Improved Performance in Late Aug

LD1809201390 Warsaw PAP in English 1913 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Warsaw, Sept. 18—The Central Planning Office has said the second half of last August was better for Polish enterprises. A majority of the polled firms (almost 70 percent) recorded greater sales, only four percent sold less, and few enterprises raised or reduced their prices during that time. Prognosis for the coming period predicts stabilisation of prices.

Banks report that 85 firms, that is, 0.7 percent of all those using bank services, were not credit-worthy in the second half of last August.

Fewer enterprises as compared with last July reported an increase in exports to hard currency and ruble customers. Meanwhile, imports of production inputs grew. Many enterprises continue to believe their problems can be solved by finding new markets abroad.

Solidarity's Geremek Fears New 'Berlin Wall'

LD2009081990 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 0029 GMT 20 Sep 90

[Text] Berlin (ADN)—In the view of Bronislaw Geremek, Poland and Germany are "for the first time after World War II in a good situation." As the chairman of the Solidarity group in the Polish Sejm says in an interview published in "NEUES DEUTSCHLAND" today, it could be the starting point for a new relationship between the two states. But one cannot overlook the fact that new hatred toward Poles, Hungarians, and other foreigners exists. "Primarily against Poles. It applies above all to the small traders."

In order to solve the problems, there must be from the start a clear stance on the Oder-Neisse [Odra-Nysa] frontier, the Polish politician said. "After that we should try to create normal and varied relations in all sectors, not only between countries, but also between frontier areas." Geremek hopes that there are no problems for the German minority in Poland and the Polish minority in Germany. In both states conditions should be created where cultural identity and the right to language could be preserved.

He said the most important thing now is to establish close economic cooperation. After the unification of

Germany he believes there is a danger of the Berlin Wall being erected again, this time on the Oder-Neisse frontier. This could be a wall that divides Europe again. He expresses the hope that within the European Community a transformation will be achieved by means of which Poland, Hungary, and the CSFR may become equal members of the new democratic Europe.

Foreign Ministry Official on Warsaw Pact's Future

AU1809204990 Warsaw ZOLNIERZ RZECZYPOSPOLITEJ in Polish 12 Sep 90 pp 1, 3

[Interview with Jerzy Nowak, director of the Department of European Institutions of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, by Jerzy Rajch; place and date not given: "The Road to Security"]

[Excerpts] [Rajch] [passage omitted] What is the sense of the continuation of the Warsaw Pact or our membership of it?

[Nowak] Central-Eastern Europe is not too strong. A sudden dissolution of the Warsaw Pact could cause a vacuum which various forces might fill, e.g. chauvinistic-nationalistic ones. Apart from that, there is a need to discuss and decide on disarmament issues together, because during the present Vienna talks, the countries of the Warsaw Pact are treated as a single group. Also, the Pact could continue to take part for a certain time in dialogue on the subject of European security.

Therefore the Pact should become a forum of countries that consult with each other on the subject of maintaining stability in Europe and our region and on the subject of disarmament and building a new system of security on the continent. It would also remain a pact of collective self-defense, in accordance with Article 51 of the UN Charter. [passage omitted]

[Rajch] In what way can the Republic of Poland assert itself in Europe?

[Nowak] We have not yet decided to leave the Warsaw Pact, though we do want to leave its military structure. What we would like is something like France's position within NATO. Only a Warsaw Pact with a consultative-defensive nature is acceptable to us. We are very cautious about our moves, although our ideas are far ahead of those of any other member country, except perhaps Hungary. At the present time, we are seeking ways of upholding the process of stabilization and security. Let me add that we cannot rule out any options, in other words a dissolution of the Warsaw Pact or our departure from it.

[Rajch] Perhaps we would like to join NATO?

[Nowak] We do not consider such a possibility, and neither does the other side for the time being. We do not treat NATO as an adversary, nor do we see any danger to our security from it. On the contrary, we perceive the positive side of NATO. We have established close contacts with NATO, proof of which was Foreign Minister Skubiszewski's visit to NATO headquarters in Brussels in March, the establishment of permanent diplomatic relations with this headquarters, and the visit to Poland by NATO Secretary General Manfred Woerner to Poland, which starts on 13 September. [passage omitted]

[Rajch] What do we expect from this visit?

[Nowak] We want to acquaint him more closely with the problems of European security and the security of our region as seen from Warsaw. Our position between the Soviet Union and Germany might have a bearing on the situation in this part of Europe one day. We shall discuss the prospects of dialogue and cooperation with NATO. We are also ready for unconventional contacts, study and educational visits, and exchanges of experiences with NATO political advisers and representatives.

Woerner Cited on Polish-NATO Relations

AU1809131590 Warsaw ZYCIE WARSZAWY in Polish 15-16 Sep 90 pp 1,6

[Interview with Manfred Woerner, NATO secretary general, by Ewa Boniecka; place and date not given: "The Facts Have Surpassed the Imagination"]

[Text] [Boniecka] You are the first NATO secretary general to visit Poland. You have called the visit a symbol of a new era in European history and an extension of a friendly hand to a new Poland by a changing NATO. You have also said that the visit gives you deep satisfaction. What did you find most striking during your political discussions and stay in Poland?

[Woerner] My Polish hosts have impressed upon me Poland's clear and precise position on NATO. The government of post-communist Poland, a Poland which is in the front line of profound changes in Central and Eastern Europe, accepts that NATO is a stabilizing element in Europe. It considers it a permanent element in the construction of an all-European structure of security and cooperation. Our views on this issue are identical. I was struck by their commitment to humane and democratic values and the will to continue reforms.

[Boniecka] But surely your recent visit to the CSFR must have led you to the same conclusion.

[Woerner] I do not want to draw comparisons between non-NATO countries and their separate ways of approaching NATO's role, because each Central European country is establishing its link with NATO according to its own principles. However, the fundamental line that Poland and the CSFR have taken is that NATO is no longer an enemy. On the contrary, we are seen as a partner in that long process of constructing an all-European security system.

[Boniecka] NATO's London summit stressed NATO's transformation from a military-political alliance to a political-military alliance. NATO has offered to change

old doctrines, regard nuclear weapons as an instrument of "last resort," and extend its security umbrella over the whole of Europe. Does it mean that in future, countries like Poland can influence NATO policies?

[Woerner] Poland, which is such an important part of the all-European security and cooperation structures that are being constructed, will have the same influence on policy as do present NATO countries. Formal diplomatic relations between Poland and NATO were established at the beginning of August 1990 and this means that in practice Poland can participate in all political and military gatherings of the alliance. This provides ample opportunities to put forward various ideas for cooperation, consolidate mutual understanding, and thus, the feeling of mutual security.

[Boniecka] Relations between the two superpowers are characterized by cooperation. There are even elements of a kind of partnership. Should tensions arise on this axis—I exclude the possibility of a return to the cold war—what means does NATO have to ensure stability in Europe?

[Woerner] This is a very important question. We have political instruments and would implement mechanisms of dialogue. I would also like to say that it is very important to mutually respect our different interests. The Soviet Union is going through a very difficult period internally and, as an alliance, under no circumstances should we try to exploit its weaknesses or exaggerate its problems. It is in NATO's and in Europe's interest to support the process of political and economic reforms in the Soviet Union. NATO will continue to act this way.

[Boniecka] In your Sejm speech you said that the continuing economic gulf between East and West Europe threatens European stability. Do you see a role for NATO here? Janusz Onyszkiewicz, deputy defense minister, has said that the most dangerous enemy the Polish Armed Forces face is Poland's weak economy.

[Woerner] I discussed these matters with the minister of defense. NATO can only assist through organizations like the European Community or through bilateral links between individual NATO members and Poland. We are not an organization that was formed to assist with economic problems.

[Boniecka] As NATO secretary general and as a German could you have imagined a year ago that Poland would perceive NATO as an element that increased its security?

[Woerner] Not only did I not imagine the changes that have occurred in Poland and Central and Eastern Europe, I did not even dream of such things. I held a deep conviction that one day we would see a different and better Europe in which its eastern part would be democratic and free. As an alliance, our policy has always been aimed at breaking down division in Europe and strengthening democracy. If we look at NATO's policy, we can see that it has always been based on two principles, namely, defense and cooperation and dialogue. These were our aims and we now see this happening. However, I never imagined it would happen so rapidly.

As you can imagine, I am one of those people who are very happy with the present situation. I survived the war as a child and, being German, I have terrible memories of that period and the suffering of people around us. Today, I am overjoyed at seeing a real chance to reconstruct Europe through peaceful means and naturally I am happy that my own country is regaining its unity and has recognized the border we have with Poland. This will be our joint border forever.

Article Examines Polish View of Gulf Crisis

PM1809133190 Warsaw POLITYKA in Polish 18 Aug 90 p 16

[Daniel Passent article: "The Ruined Banquet"]

[Text] Iraq's invasion of Kuwait is not good news for Poland. Its first result could be an increase in the price of petroleum—a raw material which Poland imports in its entirety from abroad. And gasoline prices are high enough already.

By how much will gasoline go up?—This is the first question which worries the Americans, too. From the moment when "the sun of dignity and honor shone over Kuwait," (to cite the phrase used by the Iraqi spokesman), this has been the major topic of conversation among the American public. Petroleum and gasoline are the most essential of everyday staple goods, perhaps even more essential than bread which can, after all, be replaced with other foods. The heating and air conditioning of homes, offices, and industrial buildings; almost the entire transportation system, including automobiles, without which you simply cannot survive (many Americans commute to work taking more than an hour for the journey): All these are responsible for the fact that the price of petrol is regarded almost on a par with a patient's body temperature, that is, the basic indicator of the state of health and sense of well-being of the American population.

"Petroleum prices are bound to go up in any case, regardless of what moves Iraq makes next," said the early commentaries. Saddam Husayn invaded Kuwait in order to control its resources of nearly 40 percent of world petroleum oil supply and to maintain its price on a high level, since this constitutes the main source of his income. If he gets away with it, the price of petroleum oil will go up in any case, because other oil producing countries will not be able to increase their extraction levels enough to keep prices stable at the present level. If, in turn, the blockade of Iraq proves successful, then at least for a while there will be no Iraqi or Kuwaiti oil on the market at all, which will only contribute to new price increases. Of course, we will also have to take into account the fact that other oil producers, such as Venezuela, or the USSR, will very happily increase the price

of their own oil supplies, too. In effect, Poland as well as the United States is bound to be hit where it hurts most financially.

This reason alone would have provided enough excuse for the average American citizen to be firmly against Husayn, Iraq, and the Iraqi aggression. But it is not the only reason. In the opinion of many Americans, Husayn chose a wrong moment to strike against Kuwait and he went too far with his aggression. The moment was wrong because it came too early for the American public to have had their chance to enjoy to the full the effects of the end of the cold war. The Americans had been hoping—and not without reason, either—that the end to the cold war would herald all sorts of happy developments for them: They would at long last be freed of the cost- and energy-intensive obligation to supervise the whole world; their life would become more peaceful and affluent; military expenditure would be reduced; inflation would be stemmed; above all, they would be able to enjoy a more leisurely life-style and bask in the sense of the world growing more friendly toward them. Despite the fact that its political stance is at times plainly bellicose, America is not in itself pugnacious at all: American people prefer to enjoy peaceful atmosphere at work and pleasant and relaxed weekends at home. They like to enjoy what life has to offer, and do not wish to witness the departure of their boys to Korea, Vietnam, Germany, or—as now—the Middle East.

America is now angry because Iraq has spoiled all these hopes and expectations. It has had no time to enjoy to the full the prospect of a lasting peace before the "Iraqi barbarian" deprived it of this prospect. I say "barbarian" because this term has been used in quality papers, side by side with comparisons with Hitler and adjectives like "bloodthirsty." President Bush himself used the term "blitzkrieg" in a public speech on the conflict, speaking about the invasion of the Iraqi tanks against Kuwait. Newspaper commentaries which encourage the president to take determined and resolute action—in such respected periodicals as THE WALL STREET JOURNAL and others—compare the possibility of Washington's failure to act with the historical example of Munich and the reaction of the West to the increasing aggression on the part of Nazi Germany.

It is not without significance that many Americans associate the concept of barbarism with the Third World, and in particular with the Arab world. In marked contrast to the black, Japanese, Chinese, Korean, and Latin populations, each totaling millions of people to whom America has by now managed to get accustomed—and some of whom sometimes it even admires—the Arab population in the United States is negligible and their image is decidedly negative. They are generally perceived as unpredictable and hostile. From Libya to Iraq, they are seen as enemies of Israel and enemies of America: unpredictable, inclined to take hostages, place terrorist bombs, and commit various other acts of terrorism. On top of all that, many Arab countries are known for having entertained a flirtation of many years' standing with the communist bloc.

All in all, even if they are unhappy about the military expeditions of their own boys, especially since the Vietnam days (and American television keeps showing tearful scenes of grief-stricken family partings), Americans will more readily accept a war with an Arab nation rather than with any other country. The Americans treat Europeans as their relations, Latin people as their neighbors, and the Russians and the Japanese as worthy rivals (though there are reservations here). But they do not trust the Arabs, even those classified as friends. When the Iraqi forces reached the Saudi Arabian border, the press wondered whether King Faysal would accept Western assistance or whether the Saudis would, "as usual, prefer to pay the price than to stick their necks out...."

There are still other reasons which make America bitter and rather angry. The economy is no longer in such a marvelous state as previously. After a period of prosperity under Reagan (though it was prosperity enjoyed on credit), the specter of recession has reared its head. Incomes shrink; prices grow; the number of unemployed is increasing. In the Boston area, the price of Iraqi gasoline went up by some 15 percent even before the invasion of Kuwait, while home prices fell to the level of 1975, which means that home construction industry is in recession. There are also other reasons for anxiety.

America is angry with Iraq because the latter has been trying for years to build its own nuclear weapons, and it also used chemical weapons twice in the past—first against the Kurds and then in the war against Iran. "Chemical weapons are the poor people's equivalent of the nuclear bomb," is Baghdad's reply to these charges. Generally, Baghdad is trying to present the present conflict, first with Kuwait and now with King Faysal, as the war of the poor against the rich. The pictures of the victims of the Iraqi chemical weapons shown on American television create a macabre effect. The Americans are concerned whether their soldiers will withstand the heat of the Arab desert if they have to wear gas masks.

Aside from reinforcing their ordinary human aversion to the business of killing, the Iraq-Iran war only served to strengthen the Americans in their conviction that the conflict was just a way of score settling between equal villains and justified the American hostility (fully returned) to both these countries.

America is also furious with Iraq because it is furious with its own powerlessness. True, the world's biggest power always has one option or other at its disposal, and just now it is exercising such an option by sending its troops, but in the case of this invasion of Saddam Husayn's its options are restricted. By hitting petroleum oil supplies, Iraq not so much stepped on America's toes as it went straight for the jugular. Some 50 percent of the U.S. oil is imported; consequently, if the supply drops or the prices jump up, American economy will be adversely affected and the president's political future will stand in question. If the issue was over a purely strategic product, such as, for example, uranium, it could be left for the President to worry about, but petroleum oil is a staple product of

universal use and the whole nation is now watching the White House to see what the President will do.

Pinning one's hopes on Saddam's insanity and counting on his attacking Saudi Arabia and then surrendering to American power is an act of naivete. The effectiveness of the economic blockade is at best a matter of time (for Saudi Arabia to cut off the Iraqi oil pipeline would be tantamount to declaring war against a state whose government is not given to jesting). Finally, the power wielded by Iraq is increasing before the Americans' very eyes, as is the threat this poses for Israel. Al this only intensifies the feeling of powerlessness and frustration.

This feeling is so much the stronger because America habitually sees itself as the embodiment of good in a struggle against evil. The latter has been personified in the past successively as Hitler, Stalin, Castro, Noriega, Ho Chi Minh, and now Husayn has taken on its latest guise.

President Bush reads all these public sentiments correctly and states his position energetically and with determination. Until recently, Bush has been criticized for his indecision and passivity. Already the U.S. attack on Panama was supposed to help change his image in this respect. It indicated that Bush was determined not to be just a figurehead president. At the moment he is facing the most difficult task to date in his term of office, but also the most promising one. He stands the chance of becoming not only the leader of the West, as was the case during the cold war, but also of the much wider international community which is now beginning to take shape as the conflict against communism is coming to an end.

The Americans refuse to allow anyone to lead them on the oil pipeline as if by a leash, while George Bush sees both a challenge and a major chance in the conflict with Iran.

USSR Ambassador Comments on Oil Deliveries

AU1809074290 Warsaw TRYBUNA in Polish 13 Sep 90 p 1

['J.S.'-signed report: "The Taps Have Not Been Turned Off"]

[Text] Yuriy Kashlev, the USSR's ambassador in Warsaw has said: "The rumors that Moscow has decided to suspend exports of oil, gas, and other commodities to Poland from 1 January 1991 are completely untrue.

"Besides, there is no kind of general government position on this issue whatsoever. The question of the need to reduce certain quotas was only discussed at expert level from 28 through 31 August.

"The terms of trade are not new. The Polish side wanted to base trade on world prices and to have settlements made in freely convertible currencies. In light of this, 1 million tonnes of oil have already been delivered under these conditions. In addition, as a result of earlier decisions, to which Mr. Osiatynski was a party, some of the deliveries will, to use the term, be mutually linked. This means, among other things, ensuring that certain quantities of raw materials from the USSR are supplied alongside guarantees of imports from Poland of goods that are important for the USSR.

"Finally, there is complete freedom with regard to establishing direct contacts between Polish and USSR trade organizations. For example, there are no obstacles that would prevent an agreement being reached with Tyumen so that oil could be purchased there in exchange for Polish foodstuffs or cigarettes.

"This also applies to natural gas. Central Soviet institutions' freedom of action is limited, and they can only guarantee the supply of 5.2 billion cubic meters of natural gas instead of 8.2 billion, which has been the case until now. However, this is also an area in which direct agreements can be concluded.

"However, one thing is certain, the prices will be free market ones. The current price of one tonne of oil is $225, whereas under the traditional arrangement, after conversion and in line with pricing mechanism, Poland paid $86."

Less Soviet Oil Reaching Plock Refinery

LD1809192190 Warsaw Television Service in Polish 1730 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] There is less and less Soviet oil in the Plock refinery. Only 22,000 tonnes reach the refinery every 24 hours, while the processing capability is 40,000 tonnes. That is why the Soviet oil is blended with the light Iranian oil which was purchased two months ago. Unfortunately, because of this, the quality of the finished products suffers.

Agreement Signed With Soviet Commercial Group

LD1809204390 Warsaw PAP in English 2004 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Warsaw, Sept. 18—The National Economic Chamber of Poland and the Commercial-Industrial Chamber of the Soviet Union signed an agreement here today. The signatories are presidents of both chambers: Andrzej Arendarski and Wladyslaw Malkiewicz.

The agreement provides for various forms of assistance to the development of direct contacts between Polish and Soviet enterprises and organizations. Both sides plan to exchange on a regular basis information about the condition and prospects of development of both economies, exports opportunities, and imports needs, and also about legal norms regulating the economic cooperation with foreign countries.

Both sides also agreed to work out an agreement on setting up a joint information system, and exchange delegations also at the level of republics.

Nastase Notes Importance of EEC Accord

AU1809155890 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1345 GMT 18 Sep 90

["Interviews-Statements: Adrian Nastase: 'The Accord With the EEC—An Important Political Act'"]

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 18/9/1990—This is how Romania's foreign minister defines the Common Market's accepting to sign an accord on trade and economic cooperation with Romania.

In an interview with the Romanian radio station, Mr. Adrian Nastase opines that the conclusion of that document is a prerequisite for the plan of action initiated by the "Group of 24" to include Romania in the programme of economic assistance intended to support the East-European countries who are making a transition to the market economy.

In the Romanian minister's opinion, the signing of the accord would provide possibilities to diversify and improve the legal framework between Romania and the Common Market, going down as an important step towards Romania's association with the European Community.

Neague Praises EEC Opening Economic Ties

AU2009111690 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0950 GMT 20 Sep 90

["Romanian in the World—Romulus Neagu: Good Results Abroad Depend Upon Understandings at Home"—ROMPRES headline]

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES 20/9/1990—The decision of the Common Market to deblock the economic ties with Romania is a result of a process contributed to by all factors: the Parliament, the presidency, the government. And I should add the justice with all its components, states Romulus Neagu, minister secretary of state at Romania's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in an interview with daily "DIMINEATA."

Our experience, the Romanian official appreciates, shows that the deeper the cooperation between the major political factors and the broader that action, the best for the country the results abroad.

Right from the beginning, he added, the government's platform specified the priority which should be given in Romania's foreign policy to the relations with European countries, with West European countries first and foremost. When we mention West European countries we refer mainly to those members of the European Economic Community. In a statement made several months ago, President Ion Iliescu expressed Romania's hope to become full member of the EEC, in a first stage as associate. To this end we have started the demarches which have had progressive results. And we have corresponding answers from the European countries community in accord with our advance on this freely chosen path. The EEC decision to deblock its economic ties represents a great opportunity for Romania to make a faster progress on the path of reforms, Mr. Neagu appreciated.

Chamber of Trade President Visits Great Britain

AU1909174990 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1507 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 19/9/1990—A Romanian economic delegation, led by Mr. Aurel Ghibutiu, president of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Romania, had interviews in London with businessmen and representatives of government economic bodies. The Romanian delegation travelled to London upon an invitation by the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry and it included representatives of the foreign trade and wood-working industry departments. During their stay in London (September 10-15) the Romanian section of the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized a seminar attended by businessmen and representatives of British governmental organisms. The Romanian delegation outlined Romania's economic situation and the steps taken in the period of transition to a market economy. The participants from the host country expressed interest in the development of the traditional Romanian-British relations upon a new basis.

The Romanian delegation also conducted talks at the headquarters of the department of trade and industry, the confederation of British industries and the British-Romanian Bank with representatives of important companies.

Iliescu Gives News Conference on EC Agreement

AU1909194490 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1830 GMT 19 Sep 90

["From Cotroceni Palace: Ion Iliescu: 'Reason Has Triumphed'"—ROMPRES headline]

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 19/9/1990—"I think the green light given by the Common Market to the signing of the trade and economic cooperation agreement between Romania and the European Economic Community is a useful, necessary and realistic step," President Ion Iliescu stated to the press after his interview with some of the East-European reform ministers, who have met in conference at Bucharest. "I think," he said "that the decision made by the EEC reveals the responsibility with which European issues are approached. We live in an interdependent world, where no country can assume a new course of development without help from and cooperation with all the other countries. Therefore I think reason has triumphed and the EEC decision results from a sound and realistic approach," said the president.

Following a question as to whether Romania expects compensations for observance of the embargo on Iraq, the Romanian head of state said: "We have submitted relevant documentation to this effect, such actions are

planned to support countries bearing the consequences of the embargo and Romania is among those severely affected, her losses being in the region of 3 billion dollars. We have been assured that the matter is being examined most carefully and in good faith. As a matter of fact, we want no charity. What we have requested is the opening of credit lines with the international banks, to help us with our recovery programmes and assist us in overcoming the present difficulties. We shall naturally welcome any other signs of goodwill and unrelenting support.

Ion Iliescu About the Conference of East-European Reform Ministers

The very orientation to market economy of the countries represented at this conference opens new prospects for the development of their economic cooperation on solid, mutual interest bases. Our neighbourhood and the somehow complementary character of our countries' economies can be an additional motivation for joint interests, for maintaining and developing the existing relations, said the president, expressing the opinion that every step taken in these countries towards openness, towards recovery and placing their national economies on sound principles, specific to a modern economy, objectively create the necessary prerequisites for the development of relationships on all planes. Sharing our experiences would be beneficial to all of us," said the president.

President Ion Iliescu About Romania's Economic Problems

"It is the economic problems that are top priority for Romania. They are the most serious" President Ion Iliescu told the press. The economic situation in which the former regime brought Romania is very intricate and it was and still is cause of many hardships in the people's life. The former system is responsible for a difficult situation in industry, where production is often blocked, with difficult issues that existed also before December '89, but which have become obvious afterwards as they are openly referred to now. A certain mentality should also be noticed, of people accustomed with having claims in spite of not working enough. In addition to that, the new economic structure based on market relations has not been born yet. The economic contract is to become the strict law in which contract discipline must regulate the relations between enterprises. This discipline of the economic contract, the observance of the obligations towards the partner are not the rule in the activity of enterprises in Romania yet. That is cause of great difficulties that Romania is going to face some years from now, until things settle" [quotation marks as received] said President Iliescu.

Severin News Conference on Aid From Abroad

AU1909184090 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1738 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 19/9/1990—"We think the meeting has made us get considerable experience and at the same time it has confirmed our options, especially in stepping-up the program of reforms" said Adrian Severin, minister assistant to the prime minister for reform a relations with the Parliament, in a news conference organized at the end of the meeting of reform ministers of East-European countries.

Asked about the aid Romania received from abroad for starting economic reforms, the minister said: "Our foreign partners tell us that we should first make the economic reform and then expect aid. Consequently, foreign aid for reform is extremely low and I think that can't be an incentive for the reform to be stepped-up."

As for the unemployment in Romania, Adrian Severin said that "at the present time we cannot have an official figure of unemployment. When the unemployment law that is to be passed by the Parliament will start to be applied, the unemployment rate will be more obvious."

"Romania opted for a rapid transition. The meeting made it clear for us that in certain respects we are in step with other East-European countries, that we have already adopted solutions that others are only examining, have just adopted or are going to adopt in the near future. Generally speaking, I think we are in similar phases," he said.

Iliescu Receives Soviet CSCE Official

AU1909192190 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1831 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 19/9/1990—President Ion Iliescu of Romania received on September 19 V. V. Zagladin, adviser to the USSR president, chairman of the Soviet Committee on Security and Cooperation in Europe, now in Romania for the seminar on European matters.

The guest conveyed to Ion Iliescu a message of salute from the Soviet head of state, Mikhail Gorbachev, reiterating the invitation extended to the Romanian president to visit the Soviet Union.

They discussed the development of the bilateral relations on various planes and the influence of the democratic changes in Eastern and Central Europe on the process of building security and cooperation in the continent.

President Iliescu Receives FRG Ambassador

AU1909192390 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1823 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 19/9/1990—Wednesday, September 19, President Ion Iliescu received Mr. Klaus Terfloth, the ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany in Bucharest.

The president and his guest had a sincere, constructive dialogue in which they tackled aspects such as bilateral cooperation, the European situation and the part to be played by Germany in the European context.

President Iliescu expressed his country's interest in the development of the Romanian-German political and economic relations.

Ambassador Terfloth pointed out the support extended by his government to the democratic process of political, economic and social renewal going on in Romania and informed that the FRG wished to expand its economic cooperation with Romania.

Senate Votes To Send Delegation to Strasbourg

AU1909184490 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1750 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 19/9/1990—Romania's Senate resumed debates in plenum on September 19, in the presence of 107 senators and its President Alexandru Barladeanu.

President Alexandru Barladeanu presented a briefing on the intention that a delegation of Romanian parliamentarians should attend the meeting devoted to the CSCE parliamentary dimension, to be organized on September 26-27, this year, by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg.

The Senate decided by open vote to send a delegation to Strasbourg, comprising President Alexandru Birladeanu, Corneliu Manescu, chairman of the Parliament's Foreign Affairs Commission, and I.V. Sandulescu, leader of the Liberal majority in the Senate. It was also announced that the delegation, which will mirror the political array resulted from last May's elections, will also include seven deputies. The Senate also voted the delegation's mandate which mainly consists of presenting the realities in the post-revolutionary Romanian society as well as Romania's request that is should be included in the concert of the European countries.

The Senate also passed the bill of measures on insurance in cooperative farms.

The Senate also endorsed a senator's proposal for the observance of 525 years since Bucharest had been proclaimed capital of Wallachia.

Iliescu Meets UN Religious Association Delegation

AU1909193890 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1833 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 19/9/1990—Romania's President Ion Iliescu received on September 19 a delegation made up of Bert B. Beache, secretary-general of the International Association for the Defence of Religious Freedom, a UN consultative body, Gianfranco Rossi, the association's secretary for Europe, Nelu Dumitrescu, president of the Christian Adventist Church of the Seventh Day in Romania, and Dumitru Popa, secretary of the National Association for the Defence of Religious Freedom.

Aspects of the association's activity were presented during the interview and proposals were made for the participation of the cults' representatives in the drafting of the Constitution and of the laws regarding the church life, etc.

President Ion Iliescu assured the guests that the problems presented would be carefully and considerately analyzed, so that the church may regain the place and role it had in the life of the Romanian society.

Deputies' Assembly Resumes Session

AU1909151990 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1336 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 19/9/1990—The Assembly of Deputies resumed its second session in plenum at the parliament palace on Wednesday morning. The session, chaired by Mr. Dan Martian, speaker of the Assembly of Deputies, is attended by 300 deputies.

With a unanimity of vote the following agenda was adopted: continuation of the debates by articles on and the approval of the draft law on commercial companies; debates and adoption of the bill on the general jails directorate's coordination by the Ministry of Justice instead of the Ministry of the Interior, the draft law on Romania's adhesion to the convention against torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment and the bill on the amendment of dispositions in the Criminal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code.

Further on 19 Sep Session

AU1909184290 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1733 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 19/9/1990—In the first part of the session of the Assembly of Deputies on Wednesday, September 19, there were endorsed by majority of votes, six of the 15 articles of the last chapter of the bill concerning commercial societies. Article 215, referring to the setting up of the Romanian agency for the import of capital occasioned heated, sometimes controversial, but constructive debates. Certain deputies proposed and offered arguments for that article to be put

aside, considering that the creation of an organism to coordinate the import of capital should be part of the object of a future law concerning the very problem of the import of capital. Some other deputies were of the opinion that the agency in view should be set up as soon as possible and asked for the amendment proposed by the economic commission of the Assembly of Deputies to be approved. Neither amendment met the majority of votes. A new amendment, that finally replaced the whole initial wording of the article, was proposed, following consultations between the experts who initiated that law and members of the economic commission of the Assembly of Deputies. Certain points of view considered to meet consensus, were taken into account. The new amendment that was validated, facilitates the inflow of foreign capital in Romania, neutralizes beaurocratic tendencies or restrictions in this respect and opens the path to the revigoration of Romania's national economy in as short a period as possible.

The works of the Assembly of Deputies were adjourned until Thursday, September 20, in the morning.

Deputies' Assembly Session Resumes 20 Sep

AU2009110990 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0940 GMT 20 Sep 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 20/9/1990—The proceedings in plenum of the second session of the Assembly of Deputies' current legislature have been resumed Thursday morning. The first part of the session is devoted to the debates of the bill on commercial societies as well as of other draft normative acts regarding the putting of the general department of prisoners from the Ministry of the Interior under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Justice; Romania's adherence to the convention against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment; the modification of and addition to certain stipulations in the Penal Code and in the Penal Procedure Code.

The second part of the session will be devoted to answers to the deputies' questions.

Nastase Addresses Foreign Policy Commission

AU1909192290 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1830 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 19/9/1990—A meeting of the Foreign Policy Commission of Romania's Parliament took place on September 19.

The commission debated and endorsed the bill to ratify the convention of the children's rights. Other bills too, were discussed.

In opening the meeting, Foreign Minister Adrian Nastase presented an extensive account of the government's outlook on current issues of the foreign policy.

FSN Presidents Meet at Government Headquarters

AU2009091090 Bucharest AZI in Romanian 16 Sep 90 p 1

[Unattributed note "At the Government Headquarters"]

[Text] A meeting with the presidents of the County Coordinating Committees of the National Salvation Front [FSN] has taken place at the government headquarters, on Friday morning, 14 September 1990.

The meeting was attended by Mr. Petre Roman, prime minister of the government and the Front's political leader; Claudiu Iordache, first vice president of the FSN; Gheorghe Scortan, vice president of the FSN; Minister Adrian Severin; and Bogdan Teodoriu, vice president of the Front, the majority group in the Deputies' Assembly.

The government members gave a detailed presentation of the problems regarding the stage that has been reached in implementing the economic reform and regarding the involvement of the FSN in the consistent and massive support of these programs.

The presidents in territories draw the government's attention to certain concrete aspects which should ensure an optimal coordination between the initiatives of the executive power and the citizens' expectations, within this governmental political group.

The participants in the meeting emphasized their current concerns with the activity of reorganizing and ensuring the political renewal of the FSN in view of the national convention which will take place this year.

The participants also discussed the usefulness of holding such meetings which express the political unity of the Front and contributes to the rallying the practical efforts of the governmental political group and of the executive power in fulfilling the obligations included in the electoral platform.

Newspaper Appeals for Observance of Human Rights

AU1909181390 Bucharest DREPTATEA in Romanian 16 Sep 90 p 1

["DREPTATEA Appeal—Political Detainees: Serious Violation of Human Rights in Romania"]

[Text] Romania is a tragic exception in a Europe in which the Berlin Wall fell and the communist systems were overthrown. The situation in our country is especially serious and painful because the price we had to pay for our freedom was very high; it claimed hundreds of sacrifices among the ranks of the most noble, honest, and pure. During the days of the revolution, young people made the supreme sacrifice; then, in December, they took their portion of freedom. They are not only entitled to the kingdom of heaven, but also to the kingdom of earth. This is their right, won through martyrdom. They rose to the level of the great heroes of our nation. They

bestowed their victory—freedom, dignity, democracy—on the whole Romanian nation.

Despite the tremendous hopes and democratic ideals which were nurtured, and despite the energy invested by all honorable and pure people in our country, a communist-Stalinist type of group seized all power in the state perpetuating the practices of the former regime and accentuating its shortfalls through minimal social reforms; thus leading to constantly greater economic and political dissatisfaction, to mass unrest heralding social explosions which are difficult to control.

The revolution of our young people has been confiscated by a group led by Mr. Ion Iliescu, who has installed a regime in our country which disregards national and individual interests. Ever since the end of last year, human rights have once again been seriously violated in our country. In the eight and a half months since the revolution, Romania has been—owing to Mr. Ion Iliescu's regime—a scene of bloody confrontations which claimed hundreds of victims, from young to old. The new regime in Romania, which came to power on 22 December 1989 and was reconfirmed in power on 20 May on the basis of fraudulent elections, resorted to arrests. Some 200 individuals—mostly young people—are in prisons; the majority of them having been beaten by the miners during the 14-15 June 1990 events.

We view this situation as incompatible with a genuine democratic process and, at the same time, as a particularly dangerous precedent in the regime's social and political activity. The events during the eight months that have elapsed since the revolution have proved to all of us that the practices of the Prosecutor's Office and of the political secret police—forces of order completely subjugated to the National Salvation Front—have not changed. These institutions cannot be viewed as institutions of a state of law, which functions in accordance with the rules of democracy.

We, the whole people, are living in a new dictatorship. The existence of political detainees is the most tangible nondemocratic argument in this difficult situation for the Romanian people. The very idea of democracy is threatened in our country.

Consequently, DREPTATEA's editors appeal to all colleague throughout the country and abroad, to all citizens of this country and their friends abroad, to unite and take nonviolent action to bring about that human and citizen's rights be strictly observed in Romania, as all over Europe, in the spirit of the international norms, which are unanimously recognized by the civilized world. Each genuine Romanian will be able to contribute to the resumption of the democratic process and to the observance of human rights in our country.

We are launching this appeal convinced that we will not be the only ones in this action regarding human rights in Romania. The pages of DREPTATEA newspaper are ready to act as the mouthpiece of any nonviolent initiative undertaken in the spirit of the great humane and democratic values of the world today.

15 September 1990

Iliescu Grants Interview to DIMINEATA

AU1909144990 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1345 GMT 19 Sep 90

["From Cotroceni Palace: Ion Iliescu About Himself"—ROMPRES headline]

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 19/9/1990—Despite some speculations, despite some detective scripts which are supporting the idea of a "plot," a "conspiracy" that allegedly confiscated the December revolution, which are no more than artless attempts to discredit, I have never harboured conspiratorial ambitions never sought power, being, on the contrary, a declared enemy of arbitrariness and abuse of authority, President Ion Iliescu said in an interview with "DIMINEATA" daily paper.

His election as president of the country is seen by Mr. Iliescu, under the present political circumstances, as "a heavy burden rather than a source of satisfaction. "But I accepted the job as "a credit in confidence given by a large majority of the much tried population of this country," he said, "and I feel compelled to do my best to overcome all the difficulties of the present period."

Mr. Iliescu admitted to some "moments of weakness and impulsive decisions" in his activity since the December 22 revolution and added there were "many" actions he was sorry for after January 12. All these months, he said, we have worked under stress and sometimes made decisions under pressure, forced by some destabilizing events. Besides the tragical economic and social inheritance which required thinking and balance, as well as efficient well-founded solutions that could be reached only in a climate of calm and confidence, all those street actions led by irresponsible individuals, indifferent about their country's fate, added waves of hatred and aggressiveness that prevented a normal course of development and interfered with our work. Many situations might have been avoided, Mr. Iliescu said, admitting the country's leadership was partly to blame. I however believe, he stressed, that we have embarked upon the right irreversible path to democracy.

Mr. Iliescu thinks a statesman's mistakes and weaknesses should not be hidden. The political arena is complex, even delicate, errors are sometimes unavoidable, but one should take specific conditions into account. Admitting to error is not a proof of inability, it is even a necessary step, he added.

Power, Mr. Iliescu confesses in another interview, with "AZI" newspaper, has many faults and a negative influence upon the individual. But I believe that my nature and my age make me free of such temptations.

When asked by a "DIMINEATA" editor what, in his opinion, accounts for some Romanian intellectuals turning from friends into fierce opponents, Mr. Iliescu did not deny his own faults, errors and failures, but said that such change was due to the complexity of political life, and polarization of political attitudes and options. My association with power, he admitted, has also caused some adversity—which is not always motivated.

I have very good relations with a lot of young people, the president declared, I'm aware of their support, but there are other young people who fail to understand the real importance of the period we are living and let themselves persuaded by destabilizing voices. Power must learn to speak especially to students who are a true barometer of our society, concluded President Iliescu.

Former Communist Party Leaders' Trial Continues

AU1909174390 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1618 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 19/9/1990—The Bucharest Territorial Military Court continued the proceedings of the trial of ex-members of the Executive Political Committee of the former Romanian Communist Party, charged with genocide.

As for that session only Gheorghe David, Constantin Radu and Iosif Szasz were summoned for examination, several counselors of the absent defendants requested deferment of the case and issuance of summons to the whole lot of defendants to appear before court.

The court objected to the request, deemed that the inquest commenced on September 17 could be carried on an ruled that each defendant should be informed as to the contents of the statements made by the others before court.

Consequently, the court proceeded to examining the defendants present.

Ratiu Declines Strikers' Offer To Command Fleet

AU2009111390 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0927 GMT 20 Sep 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 20/9/1990—Ion Ratiu, member of the Assembly of Deputies, met Wednesday with port strikers who proposed him, as a navigation specialist, to take over command of the Romanian fleet. He politely declined.

Representatives of all trade unions on strike spoke at the meeting. The strikers' leaders took a tough, forceful position to reiterate their claims, some pre-dating the revolution, others relating to the present period, such as: precarious social conditions, extra payment approved by government still due, ruinous state of the harbour and the fleet which requires modernization of the equipment and technologies.

Ion Ratiu made his position known to the press: I have come to Constanta because I was invited to, he said. I think it was my duty come, not only as a deputy but also because I worked for 27 years as a ship charterer. I am familiar with the problems in this business and I reacted to a crisis that affected the country. Although I am not a deputy for Constanta I have come in response to a well-founded call seeing it as my natural right in a democracy. I listened most carefully to the speakers and my impression is that most of the claims raised by the unionists here refer to failure to enforce the law. It seems to me that the strike is due to a number of minor grievances because the law has not been observed. The strikers do not demand a rise in salary. I hope the dispute will soon be peacefully settled. As for myself, I'll do my best to find the right solution.

I regret, the MP added, that things have reached a conflictual stage. Strikes are never good for a country, but calling a strike is a difficult decision since strikers are also affected. The authorities in charge ought to study thoroughly those claims and grievances.

The strike in Constanta port will not be called off unless all claims raised by the unions are solved, reads a notice from the Free Union of CHIMPEX Sailors.

RMDSZ Protests Discrimination in Schools

AU1909124590 Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 14 Sep 90 p 3

[MTI report: "RMDSZ Protests—Hungarians Are Not Allowed To Take Entrance Examinations in Their Mother Tongue"]

[Text] Two representatives of the Democratic Association of Hungarians in Romania [RMDSZ], Benedek Nagy and Bela Marko, submitted the protest of the RMDSZ to both the Deputy's Assembly and the Senate in the Romanian Parliament on the issue of the college entrance examinations in Romania.

According to regulations issued by the Romanian education minister on 10 September, students who graduated from high school are obliged to take entrance examinations to the three-year colleges in the Romanian language. A previous decree issued by the prime minister made it possible for the national minority students to take entrance examinations in their mother tongue if they learned the subjects in question in schools teaching in their mother tongue. In its protest, the RMDSZ points out that such restrictions on entrance examinations would lead to further national minority tensions because the Hungarian youth are thus deprived of their previous opportunities and rights. The latest ministerial decree issued under the pressure of the Vatra Romaneasca's parliamentary group carries the signs of a psychological warfare, the RMDSZ points out in its protest submitted to the Romanian Parliament.

Federal, Republican Leaders Discuss Future System

LD1909171290 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1330 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Belgrade, 19 Sep (TANJUG)—All federal units expressed the desire and interest to remain within Yugoslavia. Opposing views were voiced, however, regarding the character and scope of common interests to be pursued in the future community.

This is the main result of the talks which the SFRY Presidency had with leaders of federal units about the future order in Yugoslavia. The result is presented in a report submitted to the delegates of the Yugoslav Assembly today.

The Presidency stresses that two views on the future order have crystallized: the confederal concept with possible variations, which is advocated by Slovenia and Croatia; and the concept of modern federation, argued for by the others.

The Presidency states that the talks were conducted with the aim of starting a dialogue and creating a democratic and more agreeable political climate, which would assist the SFRY Assembly and other competent bodies in bringing closer people's views and finding common solutions to the open issues concerning amendments to the SFRY Constitution and the future order in Yugoslavia.

The talks in all republics and the Socialist Autonomous Province [SAP] of Vojvodina were held between 21 June and 23 July. Talks were not held in the SAP of Kosovo due to difficulties which the Presidency of the SAP of Kosovo had in organizing them, the Presidency specifies.

The collective head of the state concluded that the talks held with the republican and provincial leaderships were very useful because they provided a forum for airing assessments about the political situation and relations in the country, stances and proposals regarding ways to resolve the situation, and, in particular, regarding the future constitutional order in the country—that is, ways of finding a new formula for the joint life within the territorial framework of what is now Yugoslavia.

All statements expressed deep concern over and great interest for the fate of Yugoslavia and its state system. "It was stressed that fear is increasingly widespread among the citizens that a further exacerbation of intranational and inter-republican relations willl bring about a haphazard and uncontrollable, and thus an essentially undemocratic, resolution, with unforeseen consequences," the report warns.

Jointly acceptable solutions for outstanding issues of reciprocal relations among our republics and provinces and our nations and nationalities can be arrived at only through a democratic procedure, and in the closest possible cooperation between the most responsible organs and bodies in the federation, republics, and provinces.

The Presidency believes that the Yugoslav peoples are at a historic crossroads where they alone can make a decision and choose the way in which they will resolve and settle the future relations between them.

Fundamentally, all essential differences in the stands on specific issues of the future constitutional system in Yugoslavia derive from widely opposed perceptions of the nature of Yugoslavia—a federal state or a federation of states; that is, a federation or a confederation.

Two contradictory views have been manifested on our internal borders, says the Presidency. According to one view, the present borders are inviolable and must be guaranteed; according to the other view, acceptance of a confederal organization would open up the issue of republican borders because the present borders cannot be considered as state borders settled on the basis of the right of the people to self-determination.

The leaderships of all the republics and of the SAP of Vojvodina are agreed that every nation, as an expression of its sovereignty, has the right to self-determination, which includes the right to secession. "Agreement has been expressed that it should be made possible for anyone who does not concur with the agreement on the future constitutional system in Yugoslavia to use its right of secession."

The differences between the republics on the functions to be discharged by the federal state (federation of states) are not as evident in terms of the type of these functions, but in terms of their scope—especially in the way they are carried out. There is a general consensus that the joint state must carry out specific traditional state functions (defense, security, and foreign policy) and specific economic functions, as well as the functions in the area of protection of freedom and human rights and the rights of our citizens. The differences are manifested in defining the range of these powers, and especially so in the manner of decision-making about these powers, their organization, and the protagonists of their implementation.

The common characteristic of the supporters of the federal organization in Yugoslavia (although differences among them do exist) is their advocacy of the type of organization of the federal state in which the instruments for its efficient functioning, and for the implementation of its jointly established economic and political functions will be ensured. These joint interests were articulated in an atmosphere of full equality, understanding, and objectivity, and not by a consensus in every individual case. This means that an optimum relationship has to be established between a majority and a consensus-type decision-making, in which context consensus has to be kept for the issues that are of essential significance for the equality of our nations and nationalities.

Advocates of the federal system are in particular calling on the federal government and federal administrative organs to effectively implement the federal laws throughout the territory of Yugoslavia, which excludes the use of concensus at the executive level.

Advocates of the confederal system of Yugoslavia, the Presidency report says, propose absolute parity and consensus at the level of the joint state, with primacy given to republican constitutions and laws over federal ones.

The leadership of all republics and the SAP of Vojvodina are in agreement in the stand that the existing constitution of the SFRY, including its partial amendments, does not afford the possibility of more effectively resolving the crisis that has arisen.

In the talks between the SFRY Presidency and the republican and provincial leaderships, and in the reciprocal talks among these leaderships themselves, it was assessed that a favorable climate has been created for finding a solution for the future democratic system and prosperity of the Yugoslav community which is acceptable to all.

As in other activities hitherto, the SFRY Presidency will proceed from the principle that all nations in Yugoslavia are sovereign and that not a single one of them will, nor can, have imposed its solutions which would not be in keeping with its freely expressed wish and interests. It is essential, however, that until a new agreemeent on the future organization of Yugoslavia is reached, the present Constitution and federal laws must be observed; this is an essential condition for avoiding more serious conflict situations.

Proceeding from the conclusion that in the talks so far, two basic concepts of the future system of the country have emerged—the confederal type of organization as advocated by the republics of Slovenia and Croatia, with possible variants, and the concept of a modern federation, which the remaining republics are supporting—the SFRY Presidency has concluded that these two basic proposals, with possible variations, should be elaborated by experts in as short a time as possible, putting into concrete form the approaches and proposals which have emerged from the talks so far.

It has been agreed that in cooperation with the presidencies of Croatia and Slovenia, work should begin at once on formulating the concept of a confederal system as a possible form of future organization for Yugoslavia, that is, the concept of the confederal status of a republic in the federation, or other similar variations, while the other concept, the concept of a modern federation, is to be prepared in cooperation with the other republics and provinces, the SFRY Presidency report says.

Government Media Proposals Positively Assessed

LD1909181390 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1517 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Belgrade, 19 Sep (TANJUG)—The Assembly of Yugoslavia Information Committee today assessed as positive a federal government proposal for a transformation of the federal media into state-owned enterprises, which would eventually become joint-stock companies.

In the conditions of a disintegration and blockade of the Yugoslav information system, the media founded by the federal legislature—including the daily BORBA, the news agency TANJUG and Radio Yugoslavia—have become media of first-rate importance, as Federal Information Secretariat Secretary Darko Marin said today.

Marin set out that an objective and comprehensive coverage of the events in the country, including reform measures, by the federal media would help Yugoslavia's integration into European and world processes.

He underlined that professionalism, ethics, a market orientation and rationalization were the requirements which had to be met by the federal media.

Marin said that Yugoslavia had reserved a satellite channel via which the Yutel television chananel and Radio Yugoslavia would broadcast their programmes for abroad as of September 1, 1991.

Branislav Crncevic, a deputy from the Republic of Serbia, drew attention to a possible abuse of the federal media, especially Yutel, by the federal government for the promotion of the political goals of the alliance of reformist forces of Yugoslavia, initiated by Federal Prime Minister Ante Markovic.

U.S. Senators' Statement on Kosovo 'One-Sided'

AU2009093390 Belgrade POLITIKA in Serbo-Croatian 17 Sep 90 p 1

[Unattributed TANJUG report: "Inaccurate and Biased Judgments on Serbia"]

[Text] Washington, 16 Sep (TANJUG)—"We consider the statement of the group of (U.S.) senators issued in Zagreb against Yugoslavia and Serbia to be disappointing and very biased."

This, among other things, is stated in the letter sent by Djevad Mujezinovic, SFRY ambassador in Washington, to individual U.S. senators who expressed interest in acquainting themselves with the true situation in Kosovo after the recent visit to Kosovo by a group of senators led by Republican Robert Dole.

The letter recalls that the Yugoslav federal authorities, with the aim of starting dialogue, had asked the ethnic Albanians to first declare themselves in favor of the integrity of Serbia and Yugoslavia and to support the government's policy of a free market economy and multiparty democracy. "Instead of this, they have advocated the secession of Kosovo from the Republic of Serbia, refused to register their new parties within the framework of Serbia, and have registered them at the federal level instead.... This was the reason why President Borisav Jovic stated that the essence of the problem lies in separatism and attempts to detach Kosovo from Serbia and Yugoslavia."

Ambassador Mujezinovic's letter also recalls Jovic's statement that the U.S. Senate is risking giving support to separatism under the pretext of protecting human rights.

Propaganda Material

It likewise mentions Jovic's suggestion that the delegation of senators should compare the rights of the Albanians in Kosovo to the rights of other ethnic minorities in other European countries.

The letter, a copy of which was delivered to TANJUG's Washington correspondent, also stresses that the representatives of the International Helsinki Federation came to Kosovo on a private visit without any kind of documents indicating their membership in this organization but with a large supply of medicines and propaganda material.

As for the imprisonment of Shaban Kastrati, a U.S. citizen of Albanian origin, it is pointed out that he was sentenced for the misdemeanor of throwing stones at the police, and that he would have been much more harshly sentenced for this act in other countries, including the United States. Besides this, Kastrati did not possess the temporary residence permit which federal regulations require.

One-Sided Assertions

The Yugoslav ambassador's letter was a reply to a letter sent to him by several well-intentioned U.S. congressmen who had been disinformed by the one-sided assertions contained in the recently issued statements of Robert Dole and the Helsinki Commission of the U.S. Congress.

Sources aware of circumstances in the U.S. Congress, who did not wish to be named, declared to TANJUG's correspondent that the outlines of the text of the statement to the press issued by the U.S. senators in Zagreb had already been prepared in Washington, in other words before the delegation set out on their journey.

Loncar Calls For Apology to Helsinki Federation

AU1909153990 Zagreb VJESNIK in Serbo-Croatian 15 Sep 90 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Loncar: Apologize to Members of the Helsinki Federation"]

[Text] Copenhagen—The violation of human rights in Kosovo was one of the subjects which Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, Danish foreign affairs minister, discussed during a meeting with his Yugoslav colleague, Budimir Loncar, the Danish news agency RITZAUS BUREAU reports. At an afternoon news conference held in Copenhagen, Loncar announced that only the free elections which are due to be held by the end of the year in all republics could untangle the Kosovo Gordian knot. At that time Kosovo will also have a multiparty system with a parliament in which Albanians will have a majority, so that disagreements will be able to be resolved in a democratic way. In reply to a question on the expulsion of four members of the Helsinki Federation, arrested last week and expelled from Yugoslavia for three years, Loncar said that he would advocate in the federal government that all accusations against them be withdrawn and that with due apology they be allowed to return to Yugoslavia if they wanted to. Loncar said that the delegation was arrested because of a mistake made by the local authorities.

Albanian Parties Support Kosovo Constitution

LD1909181190 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1413 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Pristina, 19 Sep (TANJUG)—Following the news about "the proclamation" of the so-called constitution of the so-called republic of Kosovo, announced by the organizers of the illegal gathering of the Albanian delegates of the dissolved Kosovo Assembly, several Albanian parties and groups have openly supported this document.

Only the day after the news was announced, the chairman of the Kosovo Democratic Alliance [Demokratski Savez Kosova] Dr. Ibrahim Rugova, speaking at a press conference openly supported the so-called constitution of the republic of Kosovo. The statement, in which the Federal Secretariat for Justice is interested, was written down and recorded by several journalists.

Here is what, according to a recording, Rugova said: "With regard to yesterday's announcement that delegates of the Kosovo Assembly adopted the Kosovo constitution and the law on political parties—I am thinking about elections and so forth—we have considered and still consider that assembly as legal, irrespective of the fact that the Serbian Assembly unconstitutionally and illegally, as far as current Yugoslav laws are concerned, suspended that assembly, so we support that constitution and the documents which it adopted. I would like to note that Albanians have the right to express their views, and since everyone in Yugoslavia is now drafting constitutions and declarations, Albanians have the same right. This was done in a legal manner, and we hold that there is nothing wrong with it, so let us see how things will develop further, because it was not done by force, although such steps are a possibility," Dr. Ibrahim Rugova said.

On the same day, on behalf of the so-called Kosovo Peasant Party [Seljacka Stranka Kosovo—SSK], which has not been officially registered, its leader, Dr. Hivzi Isljami, supported the so-called constitutional declaration of the Kosovo Assembly ... the SSK lends its full support to the proclamation of the constitution of the republic of Kosovo and other documents adopted on 7 September. The constitution of the republic of Kosovo was adopted by legitimate representatives of the sovereign Albanian nation and other nations in Kosovo ... This is a great historical act for the Albanian nation in its efforts and aspirations to express its state-building, democratic being."

"The Kosovo Social Democratic Party" [Socijaldemokratska Partija Kosova—SDPK]—also not registered—led by Skeljzen Malici, was even more explicit in its support for the "constitution." "The SDPK," the statement released to the media by Malici reads, "fully supports the constitution of the republic of Kosovo. We regard this historical act of the Kosovo Assembly as legal and legitimate. We express our respect and admiration for the courage displayed by the delegates who resisted police pressures and maltreatment, and who ignored the illegal and forceful dissolution of the Kosovo Assembly and continued to work under the conditions of the complete occupation of Kosovo."

This party at the same time warned the public that "the constitutional act and the proclamation of Kosovo into a republic is not just an act through which Albanians wanted, like other nations in Yugoslavia, to ensure their place in the forthcoming negotiations about the future of Yugoslavia; it also stems from the principle of the original sovereignty of Kosovo, for which there is both ethnic and historical justification." The SDPK supported all other "decisions" made by the illegal gathering which, according to some information, was held in the cultural center in Kacanik.

Croat Parties Approve

AU1909150390 Zagreb VJESNIK in Serbo-Croatian 15 Sep 90 p 3

[Unattributed report: "From Denials to Congratulations"]

[Excerpts] Zagreb—"Peace reigns in Kosovo but anxiety is again felt in every home even though the illegal proclamation of the constitution and the republic was not accompanied by Albanians going to the streets"—in brief, this is the assessment of a Belgrade Television reporter from Pristina who also said that judging by the photographs from the Kacanik Cultural Hall shown to the public, "the main proponents of the separatist policy who took part in this separatist gathering did not 'feature' in these photographs." [passage omitted]

Reaction by the Croatian Public

The secret promulgation of the Constitution of the Republic of Kosovo has caused a stormy reaction in the Croatian public. In its statement, the City Committee of the Socialist Party of Croatia assesses the overall situation in Kosovo as the exercise of terror over Albanian, Turkish, and Muslim population and as the exercise of power according to the principles of a totalitarian state. The committee takes the view that Kosovo is not the "only" problem of Slobodan Milosevic and his emissaries, and that the lack of restraint on the part of the Serbian authorities indicates its readiness for an "armed dialogue" and intolerance toward others in Yugoslavia.

Ante Vujic (Social Democratic Party of Croatia) holds the view that Serbia, that is, Milosevic is now reaping what they sowed in Kosovo. "Whether or not we consider the very act of the promulgation of the constitution valid, the fact is that it obviously represents the will of the Albanian people who, after being subjected to terror, feel less inclined to live together within an autonomous region." [passage omitted]

Vito Cesmadziski said on behalf of the Radicals that this was in fact a continuation of the same policy with which Albanians were excluded from the work on the Serbian Constitution. According to him, this was a logical reply. It was generated by the Serbian policies and is therefore equally legal as the work on the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia. [passage omitted]

Slobodan Praljak (HDS) [Croatian Democratic Party] also thinks that the proclamation of the Republic of Kosovo was a logical response by Albanians to the infringement of their civic rights, state terror, and the police repression which the Belgrade regime has been conducted in Kosovo.

Cardinal Mistake

Kresimir Pavelic (HSP) [Croatian Party for Justice] personally thinks that Serbia has made a cardinal mistake: "It unconstitutionally suspended the Assembly of Kosovo and in this way prevented the legal work of this body. With that act Kosovo has ceased to be a constituent part of the federation, which is in conflict with the SFRY Constitution. Thus, Yugoslavia actually no longer exists as the SFRY." [passage omitted]

Ivan Zvonimir Cicak (the Croatian Peasant Party) said the he has not seen nor read the text yet, but the fact that the constitution was adopted by the legally elected delegates to the Kosovo Assembly gives this document a special weight. "Our view is that the Kosovo population should itself decide about its future, taking into account serious political situation in their community, and that all problems in Kosovo should only be resolved in a peaceful way, through negotiations and agreements.

They Want an Agreement

Tome Berisha (the Democratic Alliance of Albanians in Croatia) thinks that the promulgation of the Constitution of the Republic of Kosovo rounds off the process which expresses the wishes of Albanian people in Kosovo to confirm the long sought identity of the Albanian people in a Yugoslav community, which should be build on the consent of the people. This is a legitimate and legal act of the Albanian people in Kosovo which will guarantee the equality of all peoples and nationalities in a community which will be called the Republic of Kosovo. [passage omitted]

Pucnik's Congratulations to Rugova

On behalf of the Demos [United Opposition] Presidium, Joze Pucnik sent congratulations to Ibrahim Rugova and the entire population of Kosovo on the occasion of the promulgation of the Constitution of the Republic of

Kosovo. He stressed that this was a great moment in a hard struggle of the Albanian population in Kosovo and a new victory for democracy in this part of Europe.

The Socialist Party of Slovenia also recognizes "the legitimate and legal act of the Kosovo Assembly and the promulgation of the new Constitution of Kosovo." [passage omitted]

DELO Views Kosovo's 'Unlawful Police Regime'

AU1909192490 Ljubljana DELO in Slovene 15 Sep 90 p 1

["Topic of the Day" commentary by Vojko Flegar: "The Rage of a Rule-of-Law State"]

[Text] "Militia defending itself from a terrorists' attack." This is a caption under a photograph showing armed representatives of the rule-of-law state advancing with long strides toward a group of withdrawing Albanians in Pristina's main square (on the occasion of the recent visit of the American congressmen). The photograph has appeared in INTERVJU, a fortnightly publication published by the POLITIKA house, in yesterday's issue.

This is nothing new, but it nevertheless represents an appropriate occasion for recalling some things. The third year of systematic demonization of the Kosovo Albanians is nearing an end. Irredentists and separatists no longer feature in the Serbian vocabulary and honest Albanians have been killed. Only "terrorists" have remained. Of course, no state wants to negotiate with terrorists.

It must be some rage which has seized the rule-of-law state of Serbia because the "terrorists" are refusing to behave according to their name. Had it not been tragic, it might have been funny. You dismiss all Albanian obstetricians from their jobs, but the "terrorists" still do not occupy maternity wards by force, they decide that their wives are going to have their babies at home. You abolish all newspapers and the television, and they start communicating via CNN. You confiscate their money in the banks and dismiss people from their jobs, but they begin to strike. You dissolve all the organs of their authorities and they abandon the "Winter Palace", and go to some godforsaken place to write a constitution. As the international public is meant to believe, what is involved are "terrorists" who cannot be handled with kid gloves.

Slobodan Milosevic's demagogic statement that "we cannot blame Slovenes and Croats" shows the full extent of this rage. By failing to respond to the provocations, the Kosovo Albanians forced this apparent offer of reconciliation.

It was to be expected that the Albanians would have to pay for that. A week after the this statement was made, it is clear how they are going to pay. The unlawful police regime in Kosovo is going to shoot at the Albanians as long as they fail to respond in kind.

Kosovo Separatists Threaten Macedonian Security

LD1909130890 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1145 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Skopje, 19 Sep (TANJUG)—Security was seriously threatened in Western Macedonia—predominantly populated with ethnic Albanians—primarily owing to separatism of ethnic Albanians, Macedonian Government assessed in a report submitted to the republican parliament.

Ethnic Albanian separatists, under a pretext of democratization, are attempting to obstruct the functioning of legitimate republican organs. They have greater Albanian separatist demands, which run contrary to the Constitution and law, the report warns.

The Macedonian Government points out that, among other things, support was demanded to the illegally adopted declaration on proclaiming the province of Kosovo a republic at the meetings in this part of Macedonia, also attended by leaders of the ethnic Albanian opposition from Kosovo.

Others Papers Report Following RILINDJA Ban

AU1909150790 Belgrade NARODNA ARMIJA in Serbo-Croatian 13 Sep 90 p 14

[Unattributed report: "The Roads of (Dis)Information"]

[Text] The Serbian Assembly recently banned the newspaper RILINDJA for spreading separatist hatred. However, certain information from Albanian nationalist-separatists are still being conveyed to the Albanian population through various channels. Several issues of an alternative RILINDJA have been published in Ljubljana and the newspaper SUN [DIELLI] has been published in Zagreb. They were then transferred through illegal channels to Kosovo and distributed there. The newspapers which were not banned—SHKENDIJA, KOSOVARJA, FJALA, ZERI I RINISE, and BOTA E RE—have changed their concepts and taken over RILINDJA's program orientations. At the same time, FLAKA E VELLAZERIMIT, a weekly in Albanian for Macedonia has started coming out two or three times a week. Some 10,000 copies are conveyed to Kosovo and sold at RILINDJA newsstands. The suspended journalists have found jobs on the editorial boards of these newspapers.

A telefacsimile machine that Engineer Alija Memeti installed illegally on the 10th floor of the new post office in Pristina was found several days ago. With it "confidential" documents had been sent to Ljubljana, Zagreb, and to the Albanian extremist emigre headquarters in the West. Due to this telefacsimile, the telephone bill of the post office for June, July, and the first half of August alone was 46,981 dinars, which tells much about its "production."

Raskovic Explains 'Misunderstandings' to Envoy

AU1909081790 Split SLOBODNA DALMACIJA in Serbo-Croatian 14 Sep 90 p 3

["D.B."-signed report: "Raskovic Loses Concentration"]

[Text] Sibenik, 13 Sep—Dr. Jovan Raskovic, president of the Serbian Democratic Party, this morning sent a telex via the Sibenik office of SLOBODNA DALMACIJA to the United States ambassador in Belgrade, Mr. Warren Zimmermann. Stating in the aforementioned message that he is really sad and dejected at this moment because of misunderstandings relating to his interview to DEUTSCHE WELLE, the leader of the Serbian Democratic Party explains how unpleasantness actually arose concerning interpretations of his invitation to the United States ambassador.

"I talked with two very prominent United States citizens of Yugoslav origin. I mentioned that it would be a very good thing for me to contact you and discuss what has been happening in Croatia," Dr. Raskovic states in his message and adds: "Then as early as the day after, you telephoned our mutual acquaintance who told me that I should get in touch with Your Excellency at a certain time. I came to your residence, wrongly informed of the place where our conversation was to be held. They called you from your residence and you very kindly left the embassy, where our meeting should have been held. The misunderstanding was obvious and I did not fully understand whether the men with whom I spoke had conveyed this conversation correctly."

Further on in the telex, Dr. Jovan Raskovic confirms that as regards his proposal that the United States ambassador visit the Knin region, "this was exactly how it was conveyed in the statement issued by your embassy" and mentions that that was probably the moment when he was not feeling very well and not concentrating sufficiently and therefore, regarding Zimmermann's visit to Knin, was wrongly interpreted.

Telling Ambassador Zimmermann that "all this is a consequence of some misunderstandings," Raskovic stressed that he did not want the whole affair to be interpreted as political exploitation of the ambassador because "our talks were pleasant, sincere, and I think very useful."

Concluding his message to Ambassador Warren Zimmermann, the leader of the Serbian Democratic Party, stresses that he greatly appreciates the ambassador's interest in the position of the Serbian people in Croatia, as well as his honesty, and he hoped that this misunderstanding would not influence their earlier good relations.

Muslim Party Condemns 'Genocide' in Sandzak

AU1909152890 Zagreb VJESNIK in Serbo-Croatian 15 Sep 90 p 12

[Natasa Kraljevic report: "Policy of Genocide"]

[Text] Zagreb—About 1,000 people gathered on Friday [14 September] in Zagreb's French Revolution Square for a meeting organized by the Party of Democratic Action [SDA] to condemn the policy of genocide against the Muslims in the Sandzak and the mindless terror by Serbian police against Albanians in Kosovo.

Demanding equal rights for everyone, Dr. Semso Dankovic, head of the SDA branch for Croatia, stressed that the Yugoslav People's Army publicly admits interfering in political events in Yugoslavia and demanded that the leadership of Serbia scrap the publicly proclaimed stand on Islam as a factor of destabilization in Serbia, Yugoslavia, and Europe and that in this connection, "semi-legal and semi-military organizations like 'Bozur'" and 'Ras'" be scrapped. Along with a demand for the release of imprisoned members of the SDA, Dankovic stressed that the four to six million Muslims who had emigrated under threat, primarily to Turkey, should return to the Sandzak and Serbia.

Danger for Europe

The academic Muhamed Filipovic, president of the Forum for the Protection of Human Rights, stressed that Muslims have for a long time been subjected to genocidal activities, and not only in the distant past but also in the 20th century. In parallel with various initiatives for citizens to associate culturally and politically, there are attempts today to impose the ideologies which present Muslims as a danger to Europe because they exist and preserve their cultural identity. It is as if we are not a part of Europe, Filipovic added. He demanded that the SFRY Presidency and Ante Markovic himself be called to account for remaining deaf to many violations of human rights in which organizations which are the direct responsibility of the federal government have taken part.

On the Sandzak

Sulejman Ugljanin and Salih Sabic, vice president of the Central Executive Committee of the SDA, also spoke about the situation in the Sandzak, particularly after the recent incidents in Novi Pazar and about the militia assault on the people and arrest of members of the SDA.

Resignations Not Indicative of SDS Rift

AU1909201890 Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1700 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Ugljesa Balsic report]

[Text] [Announcer] Despite the fact that Dusan Zelenbaba's, Jovan Opacic's, and Branko Peric's resignation gives the impression of a rift in the party, it seems that the Serbian Democratic Party [SDS] has nevertheless maintained unity. Unity within the SDS after the resignations was also confirmed by the applause heard from the session of the Executive Committee which was held last night behind closed doors. Here is a report from Knin by VECERNJE NOVOSTI journalist Ugljesa Balsic:

[Balsic] Dusan Zelenbaba told journalists in the corridor that he will be leaving the party's Main Executive Committee, but that he is not going to leave the SDS and that he is going to remain a people's deputy to the Croatian Assembly until the people who elected him impeach him. Zelenbaba said that the reason for his resignation is his disagreement with the way the SDS Main Executive Committee is implementing the party policy. After the marathon meeting of the SDS Main Executive Committee ended late last night, SDS leader Jovan Raskovic told journalists that he is sorry that people who have been supporting the party and the people from the beginning are now leaving, but that democracy also implies that everybody can leave a party at his will.

We are not bothered by Vuk Draskovic. We are going to cooperate with the Serbian Renewal Movement, and are not going to create bad blood and intolerance, Jovan Raskovic said in reply to the rumors that Jovan Opacic is going to join the Serbian Renewal Movement.

Although it was said after the meeting of the SDS Executive Committee that Jovan Opacic is going to join Vuk Draskovic's party and to leave the SDS, Jovan Opacic neither confirmed nor denied these reports today.

It is interesting that Opacic claims that he is not going to leave politics, but is so far not saying precisely whether he will found his own party or will join one of the existing ones.

We have learned unofficially that later in the meeting, there were demands that it be defined what Serbian cultural arena in fact means, and that the question of further moves by the SDS on the Croatian political scene touched off a tempestuous debate.

We have also learned unofficially that the SDS will play a significant role in the reconciliation of the Serbian Orthodox Church with its schismatic wing in the United States, something which coincides with Jovan Raskovic's visit to the United States.

14 More Parties Officially Registered in Serbia

AU1909162990 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 15 Sep 90 p 6

[M. Pesic report: "Fourteen More Political Parties"]

[Excerpts] Since the day before yesterday, there are officially 14 more political parties on the multiparty scene in Serbia. The Secretariat for Justice and Administration of the Socialist Republic of Serbia issued certificates of registration for the following parties: The Green Party (Belgrade) [Zelena Stranka (Beograd)]; the People's Party (Novi Sad) [Narodna Stranka (Novi Sad)]; the Democratic Alliance of Croats in Vojvodina [Demokratski Savez Hrvata u Vojvodini]; the Liberal Party (Valjevo) [Liberalna Stranka (Valjevo)]; the Old Radical Party (Belgrade) [Stara Radikalna Stranka (Beograd)]; the Democratic Party of Freedom (Belgrade) [Demokratska Stranka Slobode (Beograd)]; the Republican Party (Arandjelovac) [Republikanska stranka (Arandjelovac)]; the Democratic Party (Davidovic-Grol) [Demokratska Stranka (Davidovic-Grol)]; the Democratic Political Party of Romanies (Kragujevac) [Demokratska Politicka Partija Roma (Kragujevac)]; the People's Peasant Party (Belgrade) [Narodna Seljacka Stranka (Beograd)]; the Party of Social Justice (Belgrade) [Partija Socijalne Pravde (Beograd)]; and the Serbian Democratic Party of Knin, Belgrade branch. The certificate of registration was also issued to two parties which rally only Albanians: The Independent Democratic Association [Nezavisno Demokratsko Udruzenje] and the Party for Democratic Activity [Partija za Demokratsko Delovanje]. Both parties come from Presevo. [passage omitted]

So, since yesterday there are 29 official political parties and associations in Serbia.

Pucnik Praises Efforts for Slovene Sovereignty

LD1909140290 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0823 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Maribor, 19 Sep (TANJUG)—The [Slovene] republican government has not yet managed to change the economic system. Its measures only "plugged the holes" in the old system. This was stressed by Dr Joze Pucnik, Social-Democratic Alliance chairman in Slovenia, and president of the Demos [United Opposition] ruling coalition, during the meeting of Maribor Social Democrats last night.

However, Dr Pucnik offered a very positive evaluation of the work of the Slovene Government to implement the declaration on the sovereignty of the Republic of Slovenia. According to him, major results have already been attained in this area, and Slovenia will give practical life to this declaration by the end of the year.

Terms Markovic 'Bankrupt Administrator'

LD1909140990 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0832 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Maribor, 19 Sep (TANJUG)—Markovic's government has support in Slovenia. However, he is supported only as the "bankrupt administrator" of the federation, such as it exists today. It is unacceptable to Slovenia that the federal government is the protagonist of a new concet of relations in Yugoslavia, stressed Dr. Joze Pucnik, Social Democratic Party chairman in Slovenia, and president of the ruling Demos [United Opposition] coalition, during the meeting of the Social Democrats in Maribor last night.

Joze Pucnik also said that the feeling for reality recently displayed by Dr. Borisav Jovic, president of the Yugoslav Presidency, has come as a surprise. This assessment refers to a secret SFRY Presidency document, as well as to his [Jovic's] evaluation that the political system in Yugoslavia can no longer be cahnged by constitutional means. According to Pucnik, practically everyone in

Yugoslavia now understands that we cannot go on as before. These stands are a result of political maturity and show that changes can occur without adventurism.

Peterle Views Possible National Configurations

AU1909163690 Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Lojze Peterle, president of the Slovene Government, is looking at different solutions to the crisis in Yugoslavia: a confederal setup for the entire country, a federation of only two or three republics, or Slovenia's secession to become a neutral and demilitarized state. In this connection, respective ministries have been given specific tasks. This is what Peterle said at the Ljubljana Press Center. Here is a report by Relja Atanasijevic:

[Atanasijevic] Since in his opinion, the federation has exhausted its duties, Lojze Peterle said that he does not see any better solution than to have all sovereign Yugoslav states agree—on a voluntary and (?consensual) basis—about a confederal setup. That would be the best for everybody, he added pointing out that the disintegration of any state is an extremely difficult and very dangerous thing. There is also, of course, the question of to what extent the others in the country will agree to the confederal option. If nothing else can be done, a smaller confederation of Slovenia and Croatia (?with) Bosnia-Hercegovina may be considered. The option with Croatia is the most feasible.

Although in his opinion the option of sovereign republics enjoys the majority support, the Slovene prime minister said that the present Serbian leadership does not support confederation and that it would consider Slovenia's independence as something which may make its own position easier.

In reply to the question of whether Slovenia may in some way be forced to secede, as well as whether measures are being prepared for such a possibility, Lojze Peterle said that the Slovene Government has been preparing some scenarios which proceed from the assumption that an less than peaceful outcome may occur, too. One should consider several possibilities and prepare oneself for different outcomes. In this respect the government's ministries have been assigned very specific tasks.

Concerning Slovenia's neutrality, the republican prime minister said that he primarily supports the option according to which the republic should not be linked to any world or European military-political group. Therefore, it wants neutrality of the kind Switzerland and Austria have. In accordance with this, there is a long-term plan for Slovenia to be demilitarized, but the republic needs a stronger army, that is, a stronger defense during this interim period.

Slovene, Croat Delegates Meet in Otocec 14 Sep

AU2009134990 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 17 Sep 90 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Closed Meeting"]

[Text] According to the Slovene press, Slovene and Croatian delegations met in Otocec on Krka last Friday [14 September]. The Slovene delegation consisted of Dr. France Bucar, president of the Slovene Assembly, Premier Lojze Peterle, and Dr. Lojze Janko, minister of legislation. The Croatian delegation consisted of Zarko Domljan, president of the Croatian Assembly, and Josip Manolic, president of the Executive Council. The meeting was held behind closed doors and there was no official statement. The heads of the delegations did not want to make any statements for the public nor to comment on the content of the talks.

Two Key Croatian Economic Officials Resign

LD1909183190 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1734 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Zagreb, 19 Sep (TANJUG)—Two key economic department heads in the Croatian republican Government today handed in written resignations to republican Premier Josip Manolic, sources in Zagreb reported.

The Croatian multi-party parliament appointed Dr Drazen Kalodjera and Dr Stjepan Zdunic members on May 30 of this year.

Dr Kalodjera stated that the reason for his resignation as member of the government was "differences in stands on the conception of the economic development of Croatia, particularly with regard to ownership transformation."

The Croatian press these days wrote about the differences in the conception of the privitization of property between Croatian Deputy Premier Prof Mate Babic, who favors complete privitization of property and total free enterprise, and Prof Kalodjera, who urges "a corrective role of the state which ensures the realization of the wider interests of the community."

Dr Stjepan Zdunic said he resigned out of "personal reasons."

The announced resignations indicate the approach of a government crisis which in the first 90 days was headed by Stjepan Mesic but since August 25, after Mesic was appointed member of the Yugoslav state Presidency, the post has gone to Josip Manolic.

Retired General's Becoming Croat Minister Viewed

AU1909140590 Belgrade NARODNA ARMIJA in Serbo-Croatian 13 Sep 90 p 9

[Ljubodrag Stojadinovic commentary: "Martin Is Back"]

[Text] The news that Martin Spegelj, recently retired colonel general of the Yugoslav People's Army whose last post was commander of the Fifth Army District, has become the

defense minister in Tudjman's Croatia, has caused a considerable stir. Better to say, the transfer was a sensation for at least two reasons. First, virtually nobody expected this, except for Spegelj who knew. Second, virtually nobody knew about it, except for Tudjman who expected it [sentence as published]. In this way, Janez Jansa has got a colleague who is also attractive to the media, the differences between the two being that Martin is a bit older and that Janez had first divulged a military secret and then became a minister, while in Spegelj's case the process may take the opposite course.

In any case, after the initial surprise, the transfiguration of Martin Spegelj should be interpreted as a phenomenon that even some much more prominent personalities in the past could not avoid. In the case of the minister in the Croatian Government, the dilemma was obviously not just political. Spegelj must have known that being a turncoat would cause great disappointment among those people who, simply by being his subordinates, used to trust the general's word. On the other hand, the new ruling elite in Croatia that Martin has joined has remained unmoved by such "sudden" moves, also for two reasons. One of them may be the fact that most of these people had changed their ideological guiding light at least three times in their lives, so that the "rare bird" such as Spegelj is just a new man who is yet going to be turning like a weather vane. The second reason is the fact that the Stara Gradiska prison philosophy has been elevated to the state level, according to the system "nothing must take us by surprise, apart from ourselves alone, and one can foretell that in advance...." Spegelj's greatest handicap is not having been in Stara Gradiska.

This is only a part of the explanation of the phenomenon of the "two-faced" general. The financial side is not without significance in all of this. As we could learn, Martin's new loyalty has been rewarded with a little more than 43 billion old dinars per month. Therefore, it was not only for some small privileges that the ex-general trampled with steel-capped boots upon his former life. At this moment, the question "Did we really know him?" does not bear the clang of guilt and responsibility, simply because the likes of Spegelj can appear at all levels of society, in fact, they would obviously be more numerous outside the Army. The point is in the fact that our people are rather more sensitive to any turns rightward, particularly on the part of those people who had in fact built their careers on punishing other people for their rightist ideas.

The case of Martin Spegelj certainly has to be taken seriously, but it should not be overestimated. One should not limit the scope of a person only to one act and measure up his words and deeds only according to that act. It may be a good idea to remind the authorities to which Mr. Spegelj now belongs that when presenting the public with reports on the nature and intensity of the minister's activities, one should avoid the part about his being a colonel general. In any case, one should certainly add that he is a retired colonel general. This should be done for the sake of truth. For Spegelj is no longer a general serving the authorities who made him one, and he has not been given a rank under the new authorities. True, that would not be proper anyway, above all because of the order of ranks. Namely, at the adjustment stage, Martin may get the feeling of having been undeservedly pushed aside, because his chief (the prime minister) is so far "just" a retired militia colonel.

Bosnian Assembly Supports Sovereign Status

LD1909201490 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1625 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Sarajevo, 19 Sep (TANJUG)—The Bosnia-Hercegovina Assembly, as the highest republican authority, came out in favor of Bosnia-Hercegovina as a sovereign and democratic republic within the framework of a federal Yugoslavia.

This was stated by republican Executive Council Vice President Nedjo Milicevic at today's session of all three chambers of the Bosnia-Hercegovina Assembly.

He stressed that in these decisive days no political party or state body have the mandate to decide about the future of Bosnia- Hercegovina because all citizens of Bosnia-Hercegovina—Muslims, Serbs, Croats, and other nations and nationalities living in it—have the inalienable right to make such a decision.

The delegates gave a go-ahead to the amendments to the SFRY Constitution and the constitutional law on their enforcement.

Behavior of Bosnian Electorate Viewed

AU1909113590 Zagreb VECERNJI LIST in Serbo-Croatian 13 Sep 90 p 9

["Z.R."-signed report: "Where Are the 2 Million Voters?"]

[Text] Sarajevo—The last speeches by the leaders of the political parties which have a visible role on the preelection scene in Bosnia-Hercegovina have shown—if one can completely believe the figures—that just one third of the electorate in this republic has joined these parties. The leaderships of the Party of Democratic Action, the Serbian Democratic Party, the Croatian Democratic Community of Bosnia-Hercegovina, the Alliance of Reform Forces of Yugoslavia for Bosnia-Hercegovina, the Democratic Social Alliance, and the League of Communists of Bosnia-Hercegovina-Social Democratic Party claim that at the moment they have a total of somewhat more than 1,200,000 members. Simple calculations—along with the obligatory reservations about the figures that have been issued which should be considered as an instrument of propaganda in the preelection battle for votes—show that the parties of Bosnia-Hercegovina contain around 1,200,000 citizens of Bosnia- Hercegovina, where around 3,200,000 should be voting in the first free elections on 18 November. Two million voters in this republic are not in any party at the moment or have decided on small—regarding the balance of electoral power and the division of power in the republic—marginal parties whose position is actually determined

by the size of their membership. Where is the remaining two thirds of the electorate in Bosnia-Hercegovina?

Up until a month ago, the answer closest to the truth would have been that the majority of these two million people who are not active in a party were in a deep quandary, confusion, and political passivity. Now, however, through the increasingly sharp confrontation of parties but also hints of a return of the deep economic crisis, this apparently passive electorate is awakening and taking a stand. The results of the upcoming elections will finally show in which direction and toward which political option they are oriented. It is obvious, however, that the visibly stronger current is the one which opposes political, electoral, and therefore civil passivity. Until a month ago, many people in Bosnia-Hercegovina were inclined to claim that they will simply not involve this passive part of the electorate, considering everything that has been happening among the party leaders on the political scene here. It is different now. Day after day and event after event, through everything that is generated by the practical functioning of a multiparty system, the number of people who intend to withhold their votes by not going to the polls is dwindling.

Thus, all cards are still on the table in the electoral race in Bosnia-Hercegovina. With their present membership and considering that two thirds of voters are still not oriented toward one particular party, not one single party can count on a convincing victory in the 18 November elections. Thus, for the policy of a future Bosnia-Hercegovina, the battle for voters in the next two months means a time of real decisions, but when it comes to politics in this republic, forecasts most often exist only so that they will not come true.

Changes in Serbo-Croat Broadcast in France

LD1909155590 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1024 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Paris, 19 Sep (TANJUG)—Radio station Jugo Medija which, with TANJUG assistance, was used until recently to transmit a daily broadcast in Serbo-Croat has rearranged its broadcasts during the past fortnight. Instead of being heard every morning the news from Yugoslavia can now be heard only on Saturday and Sunday.

The decision of the (Allegre) radio station, which yielded its frequences for two hours every day to Jugo Medija, to cancel the daily Serbo-Croat broadcast has caused dismay among Yugoslavs in France who are sending petitions in a bid to preserve the program.

The French station recently started to impose conditions on its cooperation with Jugo Medija, asking it to broadcast its program in French although this is not provided for in the existing agreement. Nor have the French authorities ever tried to impose such a condition.

There are rumors that the (Allegre) radio station demand is the result of influence from quarters who may be bothered by the fact that the program is also open to various parties being formed in our country.

Manolic Meets USSR Defense Industry Minister

LD1909210490 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2019 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Zagreb, 19 Sep (TANJUG)—A delegation of the Soviet Defence Industry Ministry, headed by Minister Boris Mikhaylovich Belousov, met with the prime minister of Yugoslavia's Republic of Croatia Josip Manolic here tonight.

The meeting was devoted to possibilities of promoting mutual economic cooperation in the light of the reforms in the Soviet Union and the smaller role of the state in foreign trade.